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# THE JERUSALEM POST



Peres Charms  
 London  
 -Page 3

Vol. LIV, No. 16123 Friday, January 24, 1986 • Shevat 14, 5746 • Jomada Awal 14, 1406 NIS 1.12 (Eilat NIS 0.95)

## Israeli diplomat at king's reception for first time Spain still committed to Arab cause

King Juan Carlos of Spain yesterday said that the establishment of ties between Jerusalem and Madrid corrected "an anomaly in his country's international relations."

Speaking at a reception he held for the diplomatic corps in Madrid to mark the new year, the king added that he hoped his remark would not be taken amiss by the Arab states, whose "just cause" Spain has traditionally supported.

Israel's acting head of mission in the Spanish capital, Mordechai Amichai, attended the reception. He became the first Israeli diplomat to take part in such an event.

Despite the currently amiable feelings towards Israel in Madrid, it is understood that there was strong opposition within the Spanish Foreign Ministry in recent months to the establishment of diplomatic ties. The opponents of the step charged that Spain "was abandoning its Palestinian friends."

This opposition was overridden by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, his aides and some Foreign Ministry officials who regarded the absence of such ties as "an anachronism that had to be put right."

Nonetheless, Spanish policy remains committed to the Palestinian cause. According to Foreign Ministry sources here, Spanish policy is based on acceptance of the PLO's "which is very close to the Reagan Plan of 1982," as one official put it.

The Palestinian people, "whose cause is just," should be allowed to decide their own future through self-determination. "It is up to them to decide whether they want a completely independent state, an entity federated with Jordan, or autonomy," explained the sources. "Whatever they decide is okay with us."

Spain rejects the Israeli Labour Party's policy of "territorial compromise," viewing Israel's 1948 borders as a "compromise" in Palestinian terms. The whole of the occupied West Bank and Gaza

### The Post's Benny Morris reports from Madrid

should be evacuated by Israel, and that area should then be disposed of as the Palestinians see fit.

And what of Israel's security fears with respect to the emergence of a Palestinian state in the territories? "That's Israel's problem," say the sources, arguing that Israel cannot legitimately use "the security argument" to "deprive other people of their land." Spain is against the acquisition of territory by force.

The sources believe that Yasser Arafat is "a moderate" and has the backing of "70 per cent" of the Palestinians. But, like France, they say that while the PLO is "a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," it is not the sole legitimate representative. Nonetheless, they support the inclusion of the PLO in Middle East peace talks, regarding their exclusion as unrealistic.

Madrid views sympathetically the PLO's insistence that it must be given or promised an Israeli quid pro quo to its agreement to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Madrid believes that the PLO would accept 242 and 338 if "simultaneously" Israel agreed to PLO participation in the peace process. Madrid rejects out of hand Israel's "right" to decide which Palestinians attend the peace talks - "that's up to the Palestinians themselves, surely," said one official.

Madrid views the Jewish settlements in the territories as obstacles to peace, a means of creeping annexation. "The object of the settlements is the Judaization of the territories. They should be dismantled, they are a foreign element in a Jewish body." Like a cancer? I ask. "You said it, not I," replies one official with a smile.



King Juan Carlos

Sources at the Spanish Foreign Ministry are "not optimistic" that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries will precipitate a pro-Israeli change in Spain's position. "This position is the fruit of a long and solid friendship with the Arab world," explains one official. The sources agree that the lack of contacts with Israel over the decades may have contributed to Spain's pro-Arab tilt. "We are much closer to the Arabs and their plight than to the Israeli position," say the sources.

The sources reject as irrelevant in Spain's pro-Arab tilt the "very close" personal ties between King Juan Carlos and Jordan's King Hussein - both are pilots and ham radio enthusiasts, and of course, both are members of a dying species. The sources say Juan Carlos is not involved in day-to-day decision-making in foreign policy.

## Peres detects growing scepticism on PLO role

By WOLF BLITZER in Washington and DAVID HOROVITZ and JERRY LEWIS in London

As Prime Minister Shimon Peres prepared to meet late last night with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in London, he said he had perceived a "growing scepticism" about the participation of the PLO in any revived Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Interviewed in London for NBC's Today show, Peres confirmed there has been "a little bit" of progress in the past few days in narrowing differences over the convening of an international forum for any such negotiations.

"There is one thing I believe that we have to understand, all of us," he said. "There is a growing scepticism about the participation of the PLO in the negotiations. And the feeling which prevails now [is] that no matter what... happens the door should be kept open for maybe some other alternatives."

Asked where this scepticism exists, Peres replied: "I think that it is surely the case in Europe. I believe this is more or less the prevailing mood among the Americans. As you

know, we were never great believers in it."

Peres said Jordan's King Hussein was now "going to give a last try to see if the PLO really will respond to his three points, which were, as we remember, to renounce terror, to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and to come into direct negotiations."

"Until now, Arafat is escaping a decision. He is very evasive. He goes from one capital to another. He makes contradictory declarations,

Former vice-president Walter Mondale called on President Reagan last night to step up his own personal involvement in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mondale, who is due to arrive in Israel on Sunday for a private visit, expressed doubt that the U.S. diplomatic effort would be effective at a lower than "head of state" level of involvement. He was speaking with Israeli reporters in Washington.

and the feeling is that he is simply running away, and he tries to remain a leader by not leading, and keeping a policy by not deciding."

The contacts between Peres and Murphy intensified yesterday, with a 45-minute noon meeting and another session of talks scheduled to

start just before midnight. The two men also held talks late on Wednesday night and during two previous meetings in The Hague.

Between his meetings with Peres in The Hague, Murphy met with King Hussein in London. Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan is due to arrive in London this weekend.

Sources in the prime minister's party, however, were careful to downplay the talks with Murphy. Last night's session would definitely be the last one between the two men, they said. Murphy returns to Washington this morning.

Peres, in answering questions from members of the all party British-Israeli parliamentary group in the grand committee room of the House of Commons, said "If the Palestinians had to choose between Arafat without a solution or a solution without Arafat, they would opt for a solution."

At a meeting earlier in the day with Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, Peres said he felt Arafat would reject Hussein's conditions.

While progress on the peace front appeared to have been slight, Peres's sincerity and composure have helped herald a new era in relations between Britain and Israel, highlighted by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's immediate acceptance of

(Continued on back page)

## Court defied as shipyard men continue their sit-in

By DAVID RUDGE Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - Israel Shipyard workers are continuing their round-the-clock sit-in at the plant, having rejected the revised Jerusalem District Court order sending them on unpaid leave for a week.

One of the employees said he had begun a hunger strike "as a last resort."

The decision not to "desert the yard as the government has deserted us" was made at a mass meeting at the complex yesterday morning. Works committee chairman David Goldman told the gathering that Israel Shipyard receiver Amram Blum intended to submit an interim plan for operating the yard to the court next Wednesday.

The plan is likely to recommend sending 350 of the 650 workers on unpaid leave until the end of February, when the yard will be closed and sold off unless new orders are received, he said.

The Haifa Labour Council, which is supporting the workers' sit-in, is preparing counter-arguments to keep the plant open. The court is to hear both sides when the discussion resumes on Wednesday.

Labour council official Yehuda Ben-Nun maintained that the workers were not breaking the law by staying inside the plant. "Nobody can prevent an employee from entering or leaving his own workplace, especially if he helped to build it, as the shipyard workers did," he said.

Works committee members held a series of meetings with Histadrut and labour council officials throughout the day, but were tight-lipped about their future plan of campaign.



Pupils of the Independent Labour movement school in Katamon, Jerusalem, went out with elderly people of the neighbourhood yesterday to plant trees in the vicinity of Tu B'Shvat and to improve the area generally. (See Tree-planting, page 2) (Zoom 77)

## Christian leader back in bid to oust Jemayel

BEIRUT. - Militias shelled Lebanese Army troops defending President Amin Jemayel's mountain village yesterday as ousted Christian militia leader Elie Hobeika returned to head a drive to topple the embattled president.

Sources close to Hobeika, who arrived in Damascus from Paris on Wednesday night, said he planned to travel to Lebanon within 24 hours to marshal Christian opposition to Jemayel and to keep alive a militia pact aimed at ending Lebanon's civil war.

Hobeika signed the Syrian-brokered peace accord with Lebanon's main Shi'ite and Druze factions in Damascus last month, but was driven out of Beirut last week after fighting with Christian forces loyal to Jemayel.

As Syria considered political and military options for keeping the peace plan alive, Syrian-backed militiamen in the mountains around

Jemayel's home village of Bikfaya rained shells on army dugouts surrounding it.

Radio stations said the army returned the fire, and the exchanges went on for at least two hours. They made no mention of casualties.

Syria has reinforced its own positions near Bikfaya with tanks and artillery, but has not been involved in the fighting so far. The militias say they have received no orders yet to launch a major assault on the president's stronghold.

The source close to Hobeika said he would meet Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri and Druze chief Walid Jumblatt, who also arrived in Damascus, as well as Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam, the man who engineered the peace pact.

Sunni leaders were also expected in Damascus to endorse a Syrian-backed Moslem-Christian front working to topple Jemayel.

## Reagan firm on Jordan arms

WASHINGTON. - The White House yesterday said President Reagan remained firmly committed to his proposed \$1.9 billion weapons sale to Jordan.

"The president feels it's a very important part of Middle East policy and stability," spokesman Larry Speakes said. He said that Reagan also believes that Jordan's King Hussein "has been courageous and actively involved in seeking solutions."

Speakes said the president "will be working with Congress" on the exact timing of the proposed sale, which includes advanced jet fighters and anti-aircraft missile systems.

## Most foreigners now out of Aden

PARIS (AFP). - French, British and Soviet ships yesterday virtually completed their evacuation of several thousand non-Yemenis stranded in Aden after heavy fighting broke out between rival Marxist factions 11 days earlier.

But the situation in the South Yemen capital itself remained confused, despite a lull in the fighting which helped the latest 2,000 refugees embark for Djibouti on the other side of the Red Sea entrance.

A heavy toll was indicated by opposition leader and former South Yemeni prime minister Mohammad Ali Haidham, who told Agence France-Presse 11,000 people had died.

## Oil price drops

NEW YORK (AP). - Oil prices fell again yesterday after Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ashmed Zaki Yamani reportedly warned that prices could fall below \$15 a barrel and bring dire economic consequences to the world.

Brent North Sea crude, which sold on the cash market late Wednesday afternoon for \$20.05 a barrel, sold for \$18.90 for delivery in February, and hit levels as low as \$18.35 for delivery in March.

## Airport attackers came from Syria, Rabin says

Israel has reason to believe that the terrorists who carried out the airport attacks in Vienna and Rome last month were trained and sent from Syria, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last night.

Rabin was speaking to a delegation of American UJA leaders in Jerusalem.

## Call for 'jihad' over Jerusalem

MARRAKESH, Morocco (AFP). - Arab delegates here have called for all Islamic countries to "wage Jihad [holy war] in all its forms" until the liberation of Jerusalem and Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

Early yesterday morning, the 14-member Al-Kuds Committee (with Syria and Iran absent) wound up a special two-day meeting. They made the call after discussing this month's incidents on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The committee urged that Friday prayer meetings in all Moslem countries on January 31 should denounce "Zionist plans and practices aimed at destroying Al-Aksa mosque and

Judaizing Jerusalem by changing its Arabic-Moslem character."

At the UN, the Security Council put off until Monday consideration of a complaint by the Islamic group against alleged Israeli "desecration" of the Temple Mount.

Wolf Blitzer adds from Washington.

The State Department yesterday publicly called for restraint in connection with the recent tensions on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

"The U.S. supports the sanctity of all the Holy Places in Jerusalem," spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters. "Jerusalem occupies a revered place in three of the world's major religions."

## Israel reserves final judgment on report dispute

By ROY ISACOWITZ Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Official circles in Jerusalem reacted with dismay last night to the statement by Egyptian chargé d'affaires Mohammed Bassiouny that Egypt did not intend conveying a special report on the Ras Burka massacre to the Israeli government.

Nevertheless, sources in both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office took pains to downplay the significance of Bassiouny's remarks, made in an interview on Israel Television's Arabic Service. Bassiouny also said that the Egyptian ambassador would not be returning to Tel Aviv before the two

countries have signed the compromise for arbitration over Tabá.

Bassiouny told Israel Television that "there is no convention requiring the government of one country to issue a report on events that took place on its own soil to another country." He said that Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Moshe Sasson, would be able to obtain a copy of the court judgment against the Egyptian policeman who killed seven Israelis on October 5. He said the verdict included detailed information on the incident.

Despite the initial disappointment in Israel, the official position remains guarded. Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche

told The Jerusalem Post that Egypt's true attitude will only become clear when he and Avraham Tamir, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, visit Cairo next week to begin the arbitration negotiations.

Kimche said that Ambassador Sasson has already been instructed to inquire into the meaning of recent statements by Egyptian officials, including Foreign Minister Ismet Abdel Maguid, which imply that Egypt does not find the Tabá agreement adopted by the inner cabinet last week acceptable.

In reply to the question whether the Egyptian statements should set alarm bells ringing in Jerusalem.

(Continued on Page 13)

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## The weather at major Swissair destinations

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City	Min.	Max.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	2	8	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	1	7	Cloudy
BURNOZ ADES	2	7	Cloudy
CHICAGO	-2	8	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	1	7	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	4	9	Cloudy
GENEVA	4	9	Cloudy
HELSINKI	0	7	Cloudy
BONN	1	7	Cloudy
JOHANNESBURG	15	22	Cloudy
LONDON	6	11	Cloudy
MADRID	12	18	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-2	8	Cloudy
NEW YORK	0	7	Cloudy
OSLO	2	7	Cloudy
PARIS	7	11	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	18	25	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	0	7	Cloudy
TOKYO	4	9	Cloudy
TORONTO	2	7	Cloudy
VIENNA	4	9	Cloudy
ZURICH	4	9	Cloudy

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, strong winds.  
Outlook for Shabbat: Partly cloudy, warmer.

City	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	26	3-11	10
Golan	10	3-12	10
Safed	28	2-11	9
Haifa Port	28	8-15	15
Tiberias	18	7-16	17
Nazareth	20	3-13	12
Afula	28	3-13	12
Shomron	26	3-12	12
Tel Aviv	26	8-19	16
B-G Airport	22	6-17	16
Jericho	26	7-18	18
Gaza	28	6-17	18
Beer Sheva	23	3-13	15
Eilat	33	11-13	22

## ARRIVALS

Ruth Popkin, national president of Hadassah; Frieda Lewis, Bernice Tannenbaum, Charlotte Jacobson and the Hadassah delegation to the Jewish Agency Action Committee, and for Hadassah affairs.

Leila Siegel, Geneva, president of the International Council of Jewish Women; Stella Rozan, Paris, president-elect; and Marice Halper, U.S., past-president; and Theo Hacker, Switzerland; Ruth Winston-Fox, UK, and Theo Zucker, Belgium, for the World Jewish Congress plenary assembly.

Emmah World Treasurer Miriam Mayer, from Copenhagen and Stockholm, where she was special guest of Emmah-Stockholm, at their 5th anniversary celebration.

## Maccabi in form at last

Post Sports Staff  
Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Simac Milano 102-95 last night at Yad Eliabiu in a European Cup basketball game that was remarkably close because Maccabi nearly squandered an apparently insurmountable lead.

At the break, Maccabi, playing the kind of superb team game that their fans have expected from the beginning of the season, led 61-37.

In the second half, however, Simac grimly and bravely clipped away at the Maccabi lead until they had won it down to 90-91 with two minutes to play. Maccabi tried to hold the ball, but nevertheless Simac scored four more points without Maccabi scoring any. But that was virtually the end of the Italian drive.

For Maccabi, Mages scored 29 points, Juncos 28 and Ben-Zur 17, while for the Italians, Premier got 28 and D'Antonio 21.

In deep sorrow we announce the death of

**ARTHUR E. HOFFMAN**  
Col., USAF (ret.)

A memorial service will be held this Sunday at 4 p.m., at 2 Agnon St., Jerusalem.

Shiva at home, Gilo 401/10, Tel. 764897.

The consecration of the tombstone of our beloved husband and father

**SHEAR YASHUV ALMAGOR**  
(Shubi Olsvanger)

will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 1986, at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem.

We will meet at the entrance at 2.00 p.m.

The Family

With great sorrow we announce the passing of

**EVA HALPERN** ז"ל  
wife of Rev. Joseph Halpern of London, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, 12 Shvat in Jerusalem. Shiva at 4 Sha'arai Tora, Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem.

The Family

Remembered with love and respect

**BESSIE WILLIAMS**

by RAHNA and the Smullian Family

## HOME NEWS

# TV appearance marked 'plunge into cold water of politics'

## Begin Jr. seen headed for political career in Herut

By SARAH HONIG  
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. - The consensus in Herut yesterday was that Dr. Ze'ev Binyamin Begin's television appearance Wednesday night constituted the former prime minister's son's plunge into the cold water of politics. This despite the younger Begin's own denial of immediate political ambitions.

Begin's father, *The Jerusalem Post* was told, was very happy about his son's appearance. He told a visitor to his Yafeh Nof home in Jerusalem that he thought his son came across well and answered the questions put to him adroitly and excellently.

The view that the TV appearance was a first political step is shared not only by Herut activists who yearn to see the Begin name given top billing again, but also by close friends of the family.

The latter told *The Post* yesterday that Dr. Begin, a geologist, has long been vacillating about entering the political arena. The fact that he agreed to be interviewed on the Moked programme cannot be accidental, it is claimed.

Begin's son was very stubborn when he had his mind set against politics and against public exposure, and he flatly refused any overtures

from the press. The fact that he suddenly agreed to be featured on TV's leading interview programme indicates that he must have had some further objective in view.

He aimed some sardonic barbs at Ariel Sharon. But for that he need not have exposed himself to other probing questions, say Begin's close acquaintances. They explain the appearance as resulting from a bite of the political bug. The scheduling of the interview, moreover, comes close upon the heels of his decision to run as a delegate to the upcoming Herut convention, it is pointed out.

The Begin interview was practically the sole topic of conversation in Herut headquarters at Metzudat Ze'ev yesterday. There was great excitement throughout the party. Various party branches are expected to start inviting Begin to address their members, and he is sure to pack the auditoriums. Making the rounds of the branches is not "dirty politics," of which Begin may be wary, and it will fix him firmly at the top of the party hierarchy, the activists said.

Next, Begin will be waiting for an appeal from the party to lead it, which will come sooner or later, and he will yield to the

"demand of the rank and file" according to the popular Herut scenario.

But Menachem Begin's son is not as immune from criticism as his father, and there could be some critical voices.

Most unhappy about his TV debut were members of the Sharon camp, who criticized him for "speaking down to people" and not wanting to dirty his hands with daily party activities. If he wants to try out for the party leadership, he will be welcome, but he will have to run the same course as every young member, with no special privileges because of his name, *The Post* was told.

The Sharon followers were hurt most by Begin's clear anti-Sharon sarcasm when he belittled the Sharon camp in the party, and spoke about those who joined it after the Likud's electoral victory in 1977. Sharon himself, however, was careful not to comment.

Another note of displeasure was sounded by MK Dov Shilansky, who, though he professed to "love Benny from the time he was a child," said he would not have replied as Begin had to questions about the Temple Mount and the Jewish underground. Begin urged caution and restraint about the Temple Mount, and said he



Ze'ev Binyamin Begin on TV this week (Elihu Harari)

saw the members of the Jewish underground as criminals who should be punished like any other criminals.



Hava Ya'ari with her lawyer in court yesterday. (Andre Bruttman)



"The lady in red," now identified as Aviva Granot, conceals her face from cameramen. (Andre Bruttman)

## Police strengthen guard after suicide attempts

### Hava Ya'ari and 'woman in red' remanded for further 15 days

By BARBARA AMOUYAL

Hava Ya'ari, suspected of killing Mela Melavsky, and Aviva Granot, until yesterday known only as "the woman in red," were remanded in custody for 15 days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Police sources said yesterday that they expect that Ya'ari will be charged with murder, rather than manslaughter, as first thought. Granot, who is likely to be charged with being an accessory after the fact, is suspected of helping dispose of the body of the 58-year-old American tourist.

Police are now searching for a third suspect, a man in his early 40s, who may have fled to New York. The man is suspected of destroying evidence. Ya'ari and Granot, meanwhile are being held at the Abu Kabir lock-up under 24-hour guard to prevent suicide attempts.

Ya'ari tried to choke herself late Wednesday night, police confirmed during yesterday's court session. A police guard, assigned to watch Ya'ari, discovered her gagging underneath a woolen blanket in her cell. According to police guards, Ya'ari had tried to kill herself the night before as well, with a knife. Police still do not know how she obtained the knife.

Ya'ari, looking pale and frightened, and trembling, was led into a tense and crowded courtroom yesterday before noon. As the

blonde, statuesque suspect entered the room, dozens of well-wishers rushed to embrace her.

Ya'ari sister, Tzipi Kabbalo, could be heard saying about the clamour, "Hava, don't worry, everything will be all right." In response, a grinning Ya'ari pleaded with her sister, "Save me from her. She's putting all the blame on me." Ya'ari was referring to Granot, her friend of several years, who has told police that Ya'ari murdered Melavsky.

During the emotional exchange between Ya'ari and Kabbalo, Ya'ari's husband Ehud sat silently. Ehud Ya'ari, accompanied by a colleague from Israel Television, did not approach either his wife or her defence attorneys, Edna Kaplan and Dror Makrin, during the half-hour session.

Police presented the judge with several pages of classified evidence pointing to Ya'ari's alleged role in the murder. The evidence shows Ya'ari murdered Melavsky with "premeditation" on March 10, 1985, police said.

Ya'ari attorneys did not oppose the police request to remand their client for 15 days, but insisted that she be examined by Prof. Shmuel Glaso, the head of Gekha-hospital. Police objected and told the judge that an examination by a police psychiatrist would be sufficient.

Ya'ari has already been examined by a police psychiatrist, who pre-

scribed Valium to calm Ya'ari's nerves. Police added that Wednesday's suicide attempt was intended to get the sympathy of potential witnesses.

The judge ordered that Prof. Tiano examine Ya'ari at "the earliest possible date" in the Abu Kabir police compound.

After Ya'ari was remanded, Granot was led into the courtroom. Police told the court they have evidence linking Granot to Melavsky's murder and offered to present the judge with classified evidence. Granot's attorney, Natan Kenet, did not oppose the police request to hold her for another 15 days.

Police said both women have recounted in detail the circumstances leading to Melavsky's death on March 3, 1985. "It's obvious that one of them is lying," police said.

Granot reportedly told police that she was in the back seat of Ya'ari's car the evening of Melavsky's alleged murder, when a violent argument broke out between Melavsky and Ya'ari. "Somehow the door opened" and Melavsky fell out, she reportedly said. Granot told police that she wanted to help Melavsky, but that Ya'ari refused to stop the car and proceeded to run over the tourist.

Ya'ari reportedly insisted that Melavsky "fell out" of her car during an argument about sums missing from Melavsky's bank account.

## Poor rains restricting tree plantings this year

By HAIM SHAPIRO

This year "only" 2.5 million trees are being planted by the Jewish National Fund, compared to the 3.5 million to 4 million that are planted in a year with normal rainfall, JNF spokesman David Angel told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Tu B'Shvat, the New Year of the Trees, falls tomorrow. Angel ex-

plained that no tree plantings will be held on the holiday itself, because it falls on Shabbat. However, today and on Sunday, some 150,000 schoolchildren, new immigrants, soldiers, members of the diplomatic corps and ordinary citizens will plant saplings from the Lebanese, border in the North to the Arava in the South.

Tree-planting ceremonies next week will be held in Lower Galilee and around Jerusalem. Among the new forests to be dedicated will be an Israel Defence Forces forest near the Israel monastery south of Jerusalem, and a forest near Yokneam in memory of Danny Katz, the Haifa high-school pupil who was murdered by terrorists.

## Burial register fetches \$155,000 at Tel Aviv Judaica auction

By AARON SITTNER

An ultra-Orthodox group from New York City successfully bid for the top-priced item at the first all-Israeli auction sale of Judaica, held at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

Black-garbed collectors paid \$155,000 for the 17th century vellum register of the Pressburg (Bratislava) Hebrew burial society.

The auction sale - by Perry's Gemoart Ltd. of Tel Aviv - included 330 "lots" and lasted over six hours. Only a quarter of the items were unsold, failing to reach the so-called

"reserve" price assured the sellers. Among the precious few unsold artefacts was an 89cm-high late 19th century German silver Hanukkah menorah, with floral design and a square base.

Bidding was brisk at the sale, with auctioneer Michael Garmise acknowledging buyers' competing offers from second to second. For example, Lot 44 - an oil painting by Lazar Kestrin ("Two Talmudic Scholars") - was put on the block for \$5,000 and in next to no time was bid up to \$7,500 in increments of \$500.

Garmise continued: "Any advance on \$7,500?" There was - to \$8,500.

"Fair warning at \$8,500," he continued, and a few more bids came in as buyers waived their audience registration numbers.

Finally, one of two telephone attendants raised her hand and Garmise brought down his gavel. "Lot 44 sold for \$10,000 to a telephone bidder!" he cried out.

By the time the auction ended at 12.30 a.m., sales had totalled about \$600,000.

## The new General Staff is younger, but experienced

By HIRSH GOODMAN  
Post Defence Correspondent

The General Staff of the IDF has, in recent months, undergone a series of major changes, unprecedented in scope and pace. By the spring, when the reshuffle of the top brass has been completed, well over half the generals around the General Staff table will be occupying new positions, though for many of them this will be their second stint of duty with

the rank of Aluf (major-general). Changes recently completed and in the pipeline affect the following:

- the commanders of the Southern, Central and Northern Commands;
- the chief of Military Intelligence;
- the chief of Military Operations;
- the head of the Navy;
- the head of the Training Branch;
- OC Manpower;
- the head of the Planning Branch;

the military attaché in Washington.

Collectively the new General Staff can be described as younger, more experienced, more academically qualified and more independent than any previous General Staff forum. Most of the generals have had extensive experience in all branches of the forces (excluding the Navy and Air Force) whereas in the past the upper echelon comprised specialists who had risen within the ranks of one particular branch of the service.

The newly appointed OC Central Command, Ehud Barak, for example, served with an elite commando unit, rising through the ranks to command the unit. He then did advanced training with the Armoured Corps, moving on to be head of the planning branch after commanding an armoured division, and finally being appointed head of Military Intelligence.

Barak, who is only 44 and a front-runner for chief of general staff in five years' time, when his appointment becomes possible, moved into the top Military Intelligence post from the outside and then went on to a senior field command.

Amnon Lipkin, 42, the outgoing OC Central Command, and the man who will replace Barak as chief of Military Intelligence, also represents the phenomenon of a general crossing professional lines in the march up the ladder of the military hierarchy.

What is striking in the present

reshuffle is the number of generals who have changed chairs rather than made room for new blood in the Army's highest forum. Barak and Lipkin exchanged roles: Yossi Peled, the head of the training branch, will be moving to the Northern Command and will be replaced by the former chief paratroop and infantry officer, Yitzhak Mordechai.

Aluf Amos Yaron, the former OC Manpower, will be going to Washington, and his place will be taken by Aluf Matan Vilnai. Aluf Uri Saguy, the former head of military operations, will be moving to the Southern Command, being replaced by Aluf Amram Mitznah. And Emanuel Sakel was given the rank of aluf.

Military sources have explained the changes as part of the IDF's policy of rapid rotation, and of giving its commanders as wide a base of experience as possible. This, they explain, not only allows for the traditional and necessary "clean sweep" in various areas, but enables the men who will be making decisions during battle to understand each other and learn to cooperate efficiently.

**MAN IN MADRID**  
BENNY MORRIS

## Juan Luis Cebrian - of Spain, Jews and Arabs

"This country suffers from a psychosis about the Jews and anti-Semitism," says Juan Luis Cebrian, editor of Spain's leading independent daily, *El Pais*. He has no doubt that in some basic way this "paranoia" underlay Spain's establishment of relations with Israel last week, as well as the long delay in establishing them.

Spain, he says, was once an "Arab society," but at the same time it was influenced for centuries by "Jewish culture." Most of the country's Jews stayed on after the expulsion edict of 1492 as converts, and this weighed heavily on many Spaniards who Marrano blood, who had an identity problem.

To this, one must add Spain's history as the guardian of "true Catholicism" in wars against Protestantism in Central Europe and Muslims to the south. The campaign against the Jews was part of this, says Cebrian, and over the centuries this has made "our relations with Jews a thing of mystery, something strange." He is certain that last week's diplomatic step, in the midst of many Spaniards, is linked to this troubled relationship.

The expulsion, however, is as seen here as a source of "guilt." It is a fact of history, that is all. Had it not been carried out, and had Spain not attacked the Reformation, perhaps Spain would have been "more modern." The expulsion left in its wake a tradition of anti-Semitism. This was not a "pragmatic" anti-Semitism; there were no Jews around. It was a general feeling or belief that the Jews were expelled "because they were somehow bad. Why else would they have been expelled?" This anti-Semitism, Cebrian thinks, affects all classes of Spanish society, where both "Jew" and "Jesuit" are terms of insult.

This anti-Semitic base was promoted by Franco for political reasons, especially after Israel voted against Spain's admission to the UN in 1950 and after the Arab world supported Franco and partially broke Madrid's diplomatic isolation.

The bearded Cebrian, now 41, in 1976 founded and became the editor of *El Pais*, a phenomenal success story. He likes to compare it to *The Guardian* and *Le Monde* (rather than *The Times* and *Le Figaro*). It is read, he says, by the same type of readership - young, and left-leaning (though not necessarily Socialist). It is in this context that one may view the paper's - and, to some extent, the present Spanish government's - heartfelt sympathy for, and low-key political support of the Palestinian cause.

It also underlies the attempt by present-day Spain in some ill-defined, mystical way to "regain the time that all three cultures (Christian, Arab and Jewish) coexisted in and influenced Spanish life. This talk of the 'three cultures' is not just a phrase. Look, it worked in Toledo," says Cebrian, referring to the late Middle Ages.

But Spain's history with the Arabs is far more complex, he agrees. Until 1958, Franco's personal bodyguards were Moors. "We feel in one way or another that we are the northern part of North Africa. At the same time, Christian Spain over the centuries fought to drive out the Moslems, and eventually succeeded. And in recent centuries, our chief strategic problem was - and remains - North Africa. Not Nato and the Russians - they are very far away - but our Moslem neighbours."

He alludes repeatedly to Moroccan claims to Ceuta and Melilla, two small Spanish enclaves, and to the Canary Islands.

If war looms on the horizon for Spain, then it is over Ceuta and Melilla, he says definitively.

"All our contradictions are in relation to the Arabs. In many ways," says Cebrian, "we feel like Arabs, especially the Spaniards of the South (Andalusia). While many Spaniards are somewhat racist towards Arabs, Spain for centuries has been cut off from the West and Western Europe, as in recent decades under Franco. In many ways, Spain was and is a Third World country, or at least a country seeking a third way between the capitalist West and Communist East." While enjoying aid and arms from the U.S., antagonism towards the "imperialist West" has always been strong.

The support for the Palestinians though not at the expense of Israel's existence - is to be seen in the context of this historical-ideological baggage, says Cebrian.

Mazal Tov  
Hanna and Murray Greenfield  
on the arrival of a new granddaughter  
**Yael Tova**  
daughter to CARYN and ILAN



# Activist's first day in Jerusalem was 'like watching a movie'

By MOSHE KOHN

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
"It's the Jerusalem I dreamt of," Rabbi Eliahu (Ilya) Essas told *The Jerusalem Post* shortly after he had returned to his flat in the Gilo absorption centre from an all-morning visit to the Western Wall and other parts of the city, some 12 hours after he landed in Israel from Moscow via Vienna.

"But I must say I felt rather as though I were watching a movie about someone touring Jerusalem," he added.

His interview lasted only long enough for him to say that. "Please understand," he pleaded, "I'm talking to my father and mother, whom I haven't seen for 10 years. Maybe I'll be able to speak with you after Shabbat."

When I arrived in Gilo earlier in the morning, Essas's wife Arya was in their flat with two Russian-speaking women who were apparently briefing her.

The wall of the lounge had a large home-made poster saying, in Hebrew, "Bruchim haba'im le Eretz Yisrael" (Welcome to the Land of Israel). On the floor were about 10 valises of various sizes, many of them unopened, and the opened ones were unpacked. On small tables were packages and baskets of fruit and nuts — appropriate welcoming gifts, especially now, on the eve of the Tu B'Shvat "festival of trees" which falls tomorrow.

On the wall of the kitchen were home-made posters depicting the "seven species" of fruit and grain with which Eretz Yisrael is blessed, and containing the appropriate biblical passage.

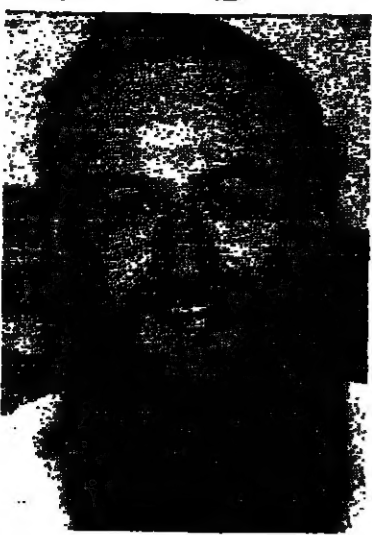
Anya Essas asked me the purpose of my visit. When I said I would like to have an interview with her husband, she said he had gone to the Western Wall with the children — two sons, 14 and 7, and a daughter, 11 — about an hour and a half earlier.

When I asked her if I might speak with her for a few minutes, she said, somewhat reluctantly, "I have nothing to say. You'd better speak with my husband."

I returned in the early afternoon, shortly after his return. He was with his parents in the nearby flat of his parents-in-law, where we held our brief conversation in the doorway.

Essas's father, Zvi, and mother, Sonya, came here from the Soviet Union in 1976 and live in Holon.

Essas's status among the many hundreds of revering followers he is said to have, mostly in the Soviet Union and here, is virtually that of a *hasidic rebbe*. Technically, that is a *hasidim*, for, as one of these admirers, who knows him intimately, told me, "Ilya — or rather Eliahu — is



Rabbi Essas

as *Litvak-minagag* [opponent of Hassidim] as they come." Not only was he born in "the Jerusalem of Lithuania," as Vilna was known in its Jewish halcyon days, but on his mother's side he is also a scion of several distinguished Litvak rabbinical-scholarly families of Telz and Brisk, including the Soloveitchiks and the Shurins.

He was given a secular upbringing, because, I was told, his father had feared that he would lose his job as a physical-education teacher at Vilna College if he were "caught" having anything to do with religion. Only once in his early life did Eliahu see the inside of a synagogue. That was when his father took him to services one Yom Kippur after his mother had pleaded, "He'll forget he's a Jew."

Eliahu became more conscious of his Jewishness following the Six-Day War and under the influence, in that period, of Shimon Grilias, who "turned Essas into a Zionist." I was told, Grilias had become an observant Jew under the influence of Yosef Mendelovitch, when the two were prisoners in Siberia together in the early 1970s. Both he and Mendelovitch have since come to Israel.

In 1972, Essas applied for an exit visa to Israel, and was promptly dismissed from his job as lecturer in mathematics at the Moscow Institute of Medicine. The application was denied on the grounds that his wife, an acoustics engineer, had done "classified" work in a government agency for one year in 1970.

This happened soon after he had decided to deepen his Jewish knowledge and had enrolled at the Moscow rabbinical seminary (since defunct). When he applied to leave, he was expelled from the seminary, and thereafter, continued his Jewish education primarily on his own. But he had the help of a few old-timers,

people who had studied under some of the great Lithuanian Talmudic scholars before World War I.

Eventually, Essas received a private ordination, which no one has challenged. One local scholar who is acquainted with him even said, "He deserves his ordination more than many of us."

By now, Essas, with his "tremendous charisma," as one person put it, and his growing reputation for scholarship, insight and acumen, had begun to draw a following, not only as a teacher, but also as a counsellor — on religious, scholarly, and personal matters — to secular refuseniks as well as religious ones.

One reason for the *teshuva* — "return to religious observance" — movement that flourished around him, I was told, is that "he provided a framework for those who had applied for visas to Israel motivated by secular Zionism and had been refused. These refuseniks now wanted to know why they were being harassed; they wanted to find the meaning of their Jewishness."

Essas did not go "soul hunting," like some of the other Jewish activists in the Soviet Union. Essas's disciples there were people who had already decided that they wished to become religious or deepen their knowledge of the religious sources.

Now that he has arrived here, all the elements of Israel's religious-political spectrum, from Agudat Yisrael to Morasha, are vying for his affiliation. But one of his acquaintances here said, "He is a unique blend of Torah and Zionism, and I don't think he will be prepared to compromise on either of them. His dream is to unite all the constructive elements represented by all the Orthodox parties."

"Some of his disciples, since coming to Israel, have aligned with Agudat Yisrael, others with the territorial issue, others have gone to Gush Emunim. Maybe he'll be able to fuse all the elements of our religious world into one, united, constructive force."

I was told that he knows a great deal about the inside of Israel's political life. In his Zionist and religious activities in the Soviet Union "he always knew how to avoid crossing that fine line that would have got him into the hands of the KGB and into Siberia. They harassed him and questioned him many times, but they never arrested him."

People speak of Rabbi Eliahu Essas as the Prophet Malachi (4:6) speaks of that original, biblical Eliahu — the Prophet Elijah, who is to be the harbinger of the Final Redemption, just before which "the will-reconcile fathers to sons and sons to their fathers."



Prime Minister Peres with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Murphy at Claridges Hotel in London yesterday, during their second meeting this week. (Reuters)

## UK papers stress 'desire for peace' Peres impresses the British

By DAVID HOROVITZ and JERRY LEWIS

Jerusalem Post Correspondents  
LONDON. — The Israeli flag, soaked through by rain, hangs limply from its flagpole above the entrance to Claridges Hotel. But the rain has not dampened the spirits of Prime Minister Peres's entourage inside. Tight-lipped they may be but they are glowing as the premier's European trip approaches the half-way mark.

Peres's men have good reason to smile: the PM has hardly put a foot wrong since leaving Ben-Gurion airport on Sunday, seizing every opportunity to explain Israeli positions to what has been a remarkably open-minded political and media audience.

All three leading British newspapers — *The Times*, *Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph* — have kept Peres on or near their front page, and have repeatedly laid stress on his "sincere desire for peace" and his concern that this year's opportunity for progress not be allowed to slip away.

An editorial in yesterday's *Guardian*, indeed, stated that "Peres would dearly love a peace settlement with his Arab neighbours...that much seems certain. He will have made the fair point to Mrs. Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe that the obstacles are not now being raised by Israel but reflect the internal politics of the Arab countries and the PLO, which more than ever resemble a game of three-dimensional chess."

*The Times*, too, pointed out that it would be as well to give as much support as possible to Peres, since the man scheduled to replace him would be unlikely to show the same thirst for progress in the peace pro-

cess. The question of the impending Peres-Shamir rotation has received considerable British media attention, with many expressing the view that Peres's term as premier might well be the last chance for serious negotiations.

This is confirmed as a semi-official British viewpoint by the fact that Thatcher, in accepting Peres's invitation to visit Israel, has deliberately chosen to do so during the first half of 1986, well before the scheduled rotation.

Since his arrival, Peres has further impressed his hosts as statesmanlike, sincere, and above all, deeply concerned over the present stalemate. In TV and radio interviews, as in public speeches, he has appeared sensible and even stylish, fielding the toughest questions with aplomb, though the faintest touch of superciliousness creeps in on occasion.

A genuine reason for the smiles is the state of Anglo-Israeli ties. These have been steadily improving since their all-time low at the time of the invasion of Lebanon.

The British began to move slowly back into favour with Israel when they cancelled Howe's meeting with PLO "moderates" Muhammad Milhem and Elias Khoury last October.

Israel was not happy about the original scheduling of the meetings, but the much-publicized last minute refusal for the two members of the PLO executive to sign a statement recognizing Israel's right to exist meant that the affair, in the end, turned to Israel's benefit.

For Britain, the October fiasco marked a turning-point. Their particularly warm attitude to the PLO

had resulted in only humiliation and considerable embarrassment. Thereafter, the Foreign Office began an earnest reassessment of its Middle East policies. A fresh approach was signalled by the recent appointment of Timothy Renton as Minister of State responsible for the Middle East.

The Foreign Office has always been perceived to be pro-Arab and determined efforts were made in the weeks leading up to the Peres visit to shake off that image, even though the new head of the diplomatic service appointed earlier this month, Sir Patrick Wright, is another leading Arabist.

Peres could thus enjoy a rare reception in London with his hosts already leaning a little to his side. King Hussein must further have impressed Mrs. Thatcher with his belief that the Israeli premier was sincere in his desire for peace, just as Peres told her he believed the King was sincere.

The standard argument that the PLO, as a terrorist organization, only delays the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian problem is getting through this time; and, while nobody expects a sudden total reversal of Britain's Middle East policy — Thatcher is not exactly renowned for her U-turns — it is fair to assume that Britain will evince increased appreciation for Israeli policies in the future.

In concrete terms, this is most likely to be reflected in movement towards a solution of at least one of Israel's three longstanding grievances against Britain: its refusal to sell Israel North Sea oil, its continuing arms embargo, and its adherence to the Arab trade boycott.

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### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Former spy denies anti-Israel remarks

HAIFA (Itim). — Daoud Turki, charged earlier this month with calling for armed struggle against Israel in an interview with a local paper, denied the charges in the magistrate's court here yesterday.

Turki, former head of a Syrian-organized Arab-Jewish spy ring who was released in a prisoner exchange last May, was charged under the anti-terrorism ordinance. In an interview that appeared in the Haifa paper *Kol-ho*, Turki allegedly praised the PLO Rejectionist Front, denied Israel's right to exist, and said he supported armed struggle.

Turki's attorneys, MK Mohammed Miari and Karam Nasser, argued that the paper had fabricated the interview.

The case was adjourned until March 23.

#### Ex-head of public firm suspected of fraud

TEL AVIV (Itim). — The former head of a large public company was barred from leaving the country by the magistrate's court here this week.

The man, aged 66, had been appointed receiver in 1984 of a construction firm that had gone bankrupt. The man is suspected of fraudulent activities that caused the bankrupt company to lose \$210,000.

The court banned publication of the suspect's name.

#### Roman amphitheatre to become park

BEIT SHE'AN. — About \$500,000 is to be allocated for the excavation of the Roman amphitheatre here, which is to be turned into an archaeological park.

The site, expected to be a major tourist attraction, is to be developed, along with other sites in the area, by a body comprising Tourism Ministry and local officials, and members of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archeology. (Itim).

## Micha Harish — The man who secretly paved the way to ties with Madrid

By ROY ISACOWITZ

Post Political Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — In mid-December 1984, MK Micha Harish sent a confidential memo to Prime Minister Shimon Peres in which he wrote: "In my estimation, diplomatic relations with Spain will be established in the first half of 1986."

Last Sunday, two days after the historic joint announcement of the establishment of full diplomatic ties, Harish accompanied Peres to the premier's festive meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in The Hague. It was a fitting recog-

nition of the crucial role played by the Labour Party MK in the process.

Israel had been interested in normalizing relations with Spain ever since the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. On several occasions during the 1970s, the government of then-prime minister Adolfo Suarez announced its intention to establish full ties, but nothing came of this.

The reasons for Spain's reluctance lay in that country's prolonged estrangement from the West during the Franco years. Out of necessity, Spain developed strong diplomatic and economic links with the Arab

world, which inevitably led to pro-Arab public opinion.

But there was also a significant pro-Israel school in Spanish society, mainly in the Socialist Party and the unions. The Israel Labour Party consistently supported the Spanish socialists during their years in the underground, providing moral support in international forums and material support for their illegal network in Spain.

In 1971, Gonzalez travelled clandestinely to Israel to attend the Labour Party convention.

Harish entered the picture in

1967, when he attended a clandestine meeting of the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) in Bilbao. There he made contact with leading members of the Spanish Socialists.

Harish and Gonzalez first met in 1970. During the 1978 elections in Spain, Harish spent election night with the leaders of the losing Socialist Party.

Shortly after Gonzalez assumed the premiership in October 1982, he informed Peres that he intended to establish full diplomatic relations. But his insistence that he do so at a

time and in a manner suiting Spanish interests was greeted impatiently by certain circles in Israel.

"All last year, while the rumours were flying, I never for a moment doubted that he would do it," Harish said this week. "I understood the constraints under which he was operating."

In late August, Harish flew to Spain and held a series of meetings with Juan Antonio Yanez, head of international affairs in Gonzalez's office, and Julio Fco, director of Gonzalez's bureau. He returned to Israel a few days later after most of the logistical details of the announcement of relations had been decided. It was agreed in September that the announcement would be made on October 15, and that Harish would visit Madrid on October 4 to tie up loose ends.

On October 1, the Israel Air Force raided PLO installations in Tunis, unleashing a torrent of condemnation world-wide. Two days later, on the eve of Harish's departure for Madrid, Yanez phoned to call the

whole thing off.

The postponement proved to be short-lived, thanks to the shift in public opinion caused by the hijacking of the Achille Lauro and Peres's "peace speech" to the UN General Assembly.

Before establishing relations with Israel, Gonzalez had to influence Spanish public opinion in a pro-Israel direction. That process was helped immeasurably by the appointment some three years ago of Shmuel Hadass to head the Israeli diplomatic mission in Madrid. Hadass worked tirelessly, meeting government officials, businessmen and cultural figures, impressing on all the desirability of full diplomatic ties.

Concurrently, Gonzalez began taking practical steps. Commercial and cultural links were fostered, and El Al and Iberia Airlines signed an agreement designed to increase tourism between the two countries.

Gonzalez also began to prepare the Arab states for the move, with



his repeated statements about the impending establishment of diplomatic ties.

In December 1984, Harish attended the Socialist Party convention in Madrid, carrying a secret message to Gonzalez from Peres. The groundwork for the establishment of full diplomatic relations was laid during their meeting.

Spain planned to establish ties before the expiration of Gonzalez's term of office (and the rotation of the Israeli premiership) in October 1985. But the Spaniards demanded that the contacts be conducted in absolute secrecy.

On November 28, Harish met with Gonzalez in the premier's bureau. "Tell Peres we will do it by the end of January or the beginning of February," Gonzalez said.

In late December it was decided to involve the foreign ministries of both countries. It was then agreed that the Spanish cabinet would approve the establishment of full diplomatic relations on Friday, January 17.

Last Sunday, Peres and Gonzalez met in The Hague to mark the agreement. Both countries are expected to name their ambassadors shortly, with the Israeli candidate almost certain to be Shmuel Hadass.

Despite his "seven or eight" visits to Spain, Harish is unable to discuss that country's food, its historical sites or its ambience. "I never had time to enjoy any of that," he says. "Maybe my wife and I will be able to do so this year."

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JACQUES ROLL speeds along the bumpy Galilee roads barking orders over his car radio to field crews spread across the forest. As the northern district forest supervisor, Roll supervises the maintenance of thousands of dunams of pine and eucalyptus trees. He is in constant motion, making appointments for seven o'clock the next morning and for late into the evening. For Roll, who immigrated from Rumania in 1958, the forest is part of the Zionist dream.

"In other countries, Jews never had a chance to be involved in forestry," he says, with obvious pride. "Only here, in Israel."

Part of one morning this week was spent working with a young cooperative of four kibbutzim, called Galilee Wood Chopping Industries.

The four — Tuval, Lavon, Lotem and Ma'ale Tzvia — were founded in the lower Galilee in the late Seventies and depend on "internal tourism" and trees to stay alive.

Pine forests need to be thinned and eucalyptus groves have to be cut down every 10-15 years. The kibbutzim work with the JNF supervisors to cut down trees that are later chopped up and sold to industry.

JNF forests provide 8 per cent of the wood consumed locally, and some 50 per cent of the wood particles compressed for use in "sandwich" wood.

Until recently the kibbutzim sold 100 tons of wood a month; today they are selling 250. The difference is an ugly \$150,000 monster from Sweden that eats trees and spits wood chips into a bin.

"We used to cut down the trees, then trim off the branches and leaves and haul what was left to a central processing plant," explains Gil Peled, 25, of Kibbutz Lotem. "Now the automatic chopper goes out into the field and processes the wood on the spot. It saves enormous amounts of time."

The machine, which arrived last May, eats leaves and small branches, leaving no fuss, no mess, and no fire hazards. It also has increased the yield by some 70 per cent, which is significant since the kibbutzim sell the regurgitated wood for more than \$40 a ton.

Of that amount, \$4 goes to the JNF, \$7-8 go for transport costs to factories, and maintenance and finance costs account for much of the rest. Still, the kibbutzim earn about \$25-30 a day on this venture.

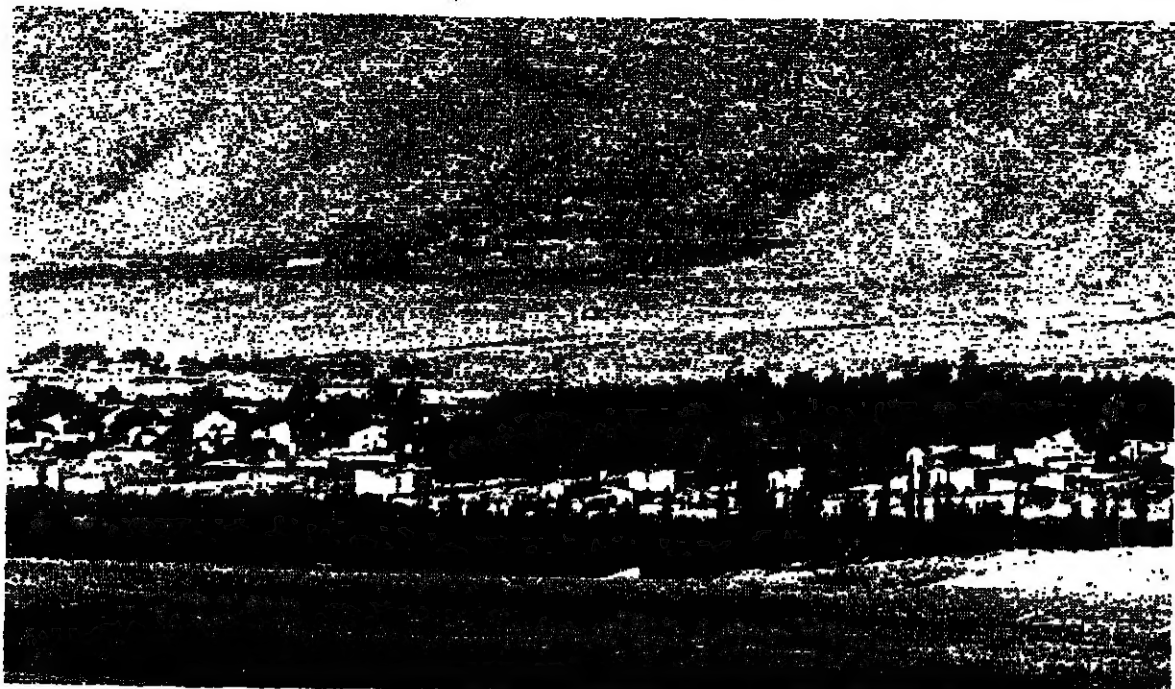
Despite the assistance of the wood-processor, the kibbutznikim put in long, hard days. They begin at daybreak and work until 4 p.m. Dressed in safety slacks that have a layer of material that will cut the power if the chain saw comes into contact with a leg, they work "just like the Arabs do."

What motivates them? "On a new kibbutz there is a challenge, you can make a difference," explains Peled. "It's not like the old established kibbutzim where everything is fixed."

Though most of the work crew belonged to Zionist youth movements, Peled did not, and he concedes that sometimes the kibbutz system requires you to swallow your pride.

The infrastructure for these and other Galilee kibbutzim was built by the JNF. "Some 2,500 people live

## Roots in the land



Forested kibbutz in the Hula Valley where swamp once stood; children planting for Tu Bishvat; and a stand of eucalyptus near Hadera.

(R. Nowitz, Joel Fishman)



### Joel Rebibo goes on the road to learn about forestry

there now," says JNF spokesman David Angel. "We could easily accommodate another 20,000."

To make up for all the Jews who have temporarily delayed their immigration to Israel, the JNF is planting millions of trees each year.

"Where you have a grove of trees you make that piece of land ours," explains Angel.

According to the law, a squatter who plows a piece of land for five years has rights to keep plowing the land, forever. Planting trees, says Angel, keeps the lands out of the hands of those who would illegally plow.

Trees also serve a diplomatic purpose in Israel. Many visiting digni-

ties insist on planting trees here or visiting groves that were named in their country's honour.

When Costa Rican premier visited several months ago, he had two requests: to visit former prime minister Menachem Begin, and to see his tree grove.

"According to Angel, everyone who plants a tree himself, and receives a certificate, has a real tree somewhere in Israel that can be located. Those who do not plant the tree themselves, but contribute a dollar for its planting, have a tree somewhere, but it cannot be identified."

Because of a serious vandalism problem, plaques are no longer dis-

played at the grove, but kept at central visitors centres that are guarded around the clock.

When Queen Juliana visited from Holland, she wanted to see the forest planted by her country. A marble slab that held the plaque had been destroyed and so a new one was erected, and a guard spent the night on the site to protect it. The ceremony was scheduled for noon but the queen was delayed and so a JNF official sent the guard home and stayed there in his place.

More than an hour passed, and the official, worried that something had happened to the entourage, drove to his office in order to make a call. On the way he encountered the bus,

turned his car around, and reached the forest to find that the plaque had been destroyed.

Trees provide an emotional link to the country. A Swiss gentile donated 150 trees on condition that he be allowed to plant them next week himself.

The JNF is making a major push to return to the schools through its trademark blue box. 70,000 cans have been manufactured and some 50,000 have been distributed. More than a million dollars a year is raised, but what is more significant is developing the values that JNF stands for — old-fashioned Zionism, and our connection to the land.

Each school has at least one

teacher and student who serve as a liaison with the JNF. Education materials are distributed throughout schools here and abroad.

This year's theme is the International Year of the Forest, marking 80 years since the planting of the Herzl Forest in Beit Shemen.

Trees bridge the gap between the old-time Zionists and this generation. Gil Sapir, a JNF district supervisor in charge of the lower Galilee, was introduced as a "new breed" of highly educated forestry experts. He studied botany at the Hebrew University and decides what trees should be planted and where.

"Don't ever forget that we wouldn't have anything to work on if

it weren't for the old-timers who learned by experience in the field."

Ben-Gurion's dream of half a billion trees is still a far way off, but more than 150,000,000 trees have been planted and several million new ones are added each year.

The story goes that a Beduin father who witnessed the Jews planting trees in the southern swamps turned to his son and said that the Jews would ultimately gain control of the land. The Turks and British didn't plant trees, he said. But people who plant trees are here to stay. They are the ones we will have to make peace with.

## Return to the soil

By JUDY PLATT / Special to The Jerusalem Post

IT'S HARD to know when our son first sprouted a green thumb. Perhaps it was his brief but instant rise to celebrity three years ago when *The Jerusalem Post* ran a photo of him planting a tree for Tu Bishvat. More likely, it was the view of the Judean Hills from our window — barren and rocky, except for the places where people have chosen to plant forests and gardens.

Indeed, Israel, where planting has been turned from a hobby or economic endeavour into an act of patriotism, provides fertile soil for aspiring young gardeners. Thus, we weren't the least bit surprised last year when our son announced plans to return to the soil and plant a garden in a rather forlorn plot of hard earth in our backyard. And, as might have been expected, the garden project became an exercise in halutz ideals.

It began by my son's organizing his

peers into a work brigade to clear the site of discarded tiles and other garbage and build a stone wall. Our older daughter volunteered her store of gardening experience from the youth movement, but she was soon rebuffed. Equality was to be the byword of this endeavour, my son said in so many words. "We're all *mifkadim*," he declared in setting out the principles of the new cooperative.

Not unlike his halutz counterparts at the turn of the century, however,

the fledgling gardeners had to rely on the support of their wealthier and more established brethren. Rather than sending emissaries abroad (a strategy that would have been more practicable in those days before the exit tax was imposed but was still well beyond the scope of this project), the group solicited donations in kind from the neighbours. One woman offered a few cuttings from her own garden, while grandma provided some flowers. Hanukka gelt funded the purchase of seeds.

PROBLEMS still abounded. Trails of mud and water through the apartment earned the wrath of parents who couldn't fully understand the higher purpose to which their carpets had been sacrificed. Gardening tools changed hands or disappeared altogether as the group discovered that though it had many leaders, few were willing to accept responsibility — no doubt another Zionist tendency we bequeathed to the next generation. Despite the presence of a scarecrow built of broom and

squeegee sticks, marauders still ran off with part of the crop. The flowers donated by grandma proved too attractive for passing children to resist picking, and the garden had to be moved to a more remote location.

Despite the setbacks on the agricultural side, the group's other use-ful enterprises flourished. A bulletin board was constructed for posting notices concerning lost tools and dogs, and other neighbourhood affairs. The group became the framework for a planned Tu Bishvat *shivrit* and, finally, a mechanism for fundraising. A little blue-and-white collection box appeared in our home for what my husband first thought was the financing of a fence to deter flower pickers. No, we overheard our son and his friends say, the money would be used to buy land. One day the junior gardener met a

friend of the family. She had visited Beth Hachutsoth and brought back a souvenir for him. He looked at it briefly, tucked it unceremoniously into his bag of gardening tools and ran off. After a query from our friend the next day, we retrieved the forgotten momento from the bag — a bit wrinkled and soiled but all the more precious for that. It was a promotional leaflet distributed at Beth Hachutsoth for *The Jerusalem Post International Edition*, on the cover, illustrating "Now for a few words about Israel..." was ... the famous two-year-old picture of the five-year-old boy planting a tree.

So we set our table for Tu Bishvat seder with the picture-worth-more-than-words in the midst of the fruit-filled centerpiece. Outside, our son and his friends play happily in their garden underneath the fig-tree.

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I MET a palpably pleased Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy at his east Jerusalem Kirya office.

Just a month ago he was counted out as a political force. Only a fortnight ago, Herut old-timers around Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir talked of him with such phrases as "that upstart on his way out." This week Levy displayed a fair capacity for agility in climbing back onto centre-stage, outmaneuvering both Shamir and Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, and thereby restoring himself to the position of king-maker, who might yet seek the crown for himself.

Illuminating the current internal tension in Herut, Levy termed the cause of friction as the bid to sidestep party election rules and bend the Herut constitution.

Levy spoke harshly of efforts to pack the convention, first by a concerted bid to cancel membership applications by an election committee weighted against him. However, he was gratified that the party members' court of honour had since validated 7,500 forms (out of 12,500) with yet more to come. He inveighed against an attempt by the convention preparatory committee to co-opt 500 non-elected delegates onto the 1100 to be picked by the branches, "a blatant attempt at tilting the convention and of converting those with a minority in the branches into a convention majority." Current tension in the party stemmed from attempts to disrupt the accepted rules of the game, he contended.

He explained the swirl of events around Monday's central committee meeting. "Shamir invited me over to air his fears lest our ranks be ruptured for lack of a proper understanding between us. Hence the request for a three week delay for internal elections. I prefer to keep to the rules of the game, and when our party leader requests a delay, I naturally agreed, especially as the

venue won't be changed."

He was confident that the central committee would reconvene in a fortnight's time to vote on an agreed motion, with internal polling taking place three weeks later. At Monday's meeting, Levy occupied the middle ground, flanked by Shamir who sought to delay the convention, and Sharon who wanted an immediate decision. By so doing, he had acted in response to the general mood of the meeting and was happy with the ovation he earned.

IN THE absence of any reaction from Shamir to Sharon's talk of asking the Herut convention to abandon the autonomy scheme and extend Israeli law over the territories, I sought the deputy premier's response. It was withering in tone and content: "The convention hasn't been put together and he's already talking of the nitty-gritty. I suppose its good for getting headlines. But it does not reflect any sense of responsible leadership."

"Sharon wishes for Israel to unilaterally renounce on two major Israeli commitments. No one should forget that it was Menachem Begin as premier who signed the Camp David agreement committing us to autonomy, then obtaining Knesset endorsement. Does he truly intend to tear that to shreds? How will the world regard our credibility?"

"The other document he wishes to scrap is the national unity government guidelines incorporating the Camp David agreement. Would that not provide an ideal opportunity for those of our coalition partners eagerly seeking an excuse to break up the coalition and with it the rotation agreement? Is this the proposal of a responsible political leader? Does he really think we have a Knesset majority for such a measure, or we can form a government on our own? He's playing blind-man-bluff or thinks he's dealing with a political party lacking all sense

reputation, said: "There appears to be method in this madness."

THE CHAIRMAN of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Crowe had the unusual experience of spending a day at Kibbutz Beit Alfa, the home of CGS Rav-Aluf Moshe (and-a-half) Levy, with our No.1 soldier as his guide through the mysteries of communal living. The admiral and his party joined their host and his family for supper in the communal dining hall. The guests enjoyed the privilege of not having to clear away their plates like the Israeli General.

LOS ANGELES Mayor Thomas Bradley sent a warmly appreciative letter to President Chaim Herzog registering his gratitude as a mainstream black leader to Israel for being the only country outside the U.S. to specially mark Martin Luther King Day. It's good to know that the British marked the day by excluding from its shores black racist Hitler-lover Louis Farrakhan.

WHEN I MET the New Republic's influential publisher Martin Peretz, minus his beard and 12 kilos, he told me that last year when Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek was awarded an honorary degree at Harvard, his fellow honoree was King Juan Carlos of Spain. Our uncrowned monarch of Jerusalem asked the royal guest: "Isn't it true that one of your titles is King of Jerusalem?" When Juan Carlos replied in the affirmative, Teddy queried: "Nu, and when are you going to visit?"

I hear from Teddy's spokesman Rafi Devara that Teddy sent a formal invitation to the Royal Palace in Madrid this week.

I gather that a number of people deserve credit for the renewal of ties between Madrid and Jerusalem. Everyone is full of praise for the dedicated work of Shmuel Hadass, soon to become our first ambassador to Spain, in his years as unofficial envoy. Particularly influential in Madrid was Nicholas Redondo, the pro-Israel leader of OGT, the powerful labour federation. While Labour's international secretary, MK Micha Harish, has enjoyed publicity for being the link between Peres and Gonzales, less attention has been given to the Spanish connection fostered over the years by Israelis born in South America, including Hadass, born in Argentina, like Histadrut international department director Avraham Allen and former Histadrut emissary to Europe Aharon Barnea. Not forgetting the activity of newsmen like Chile-born Ariel Rofe Spanish state radio's correspondent in Israel. Nor should the work of such leaders of the tiny Spanish Jewish community as Vilna-born Max Mazin and

# David and the Herut Goliath

## Counted out a month ago, he's now moved back to centrestage

By MARK SEGAL/Post Political Correspondent

of political realism, which does not honour its commitments and smashes frameworks. Such a proposal reflects a penchant for adventurism. And that's what some call realpolitik!"

We further discussed his feelings about relations at the top of Herut. Levy reflected on his political career, on how he began from the bottom, lacking any boost-up as others in the movement had gotten, how throughout his life he had fought for the have-nots, how his record at the Housing Ministry had proven that he not only talked but acted in solving people's housing problems, in building new towns especially in Judea and Samaria. "No one can contest my record. And what I built, I only built within government parameters. No one can challenge the depth of my commitment to our programme", he declared heatedly.

His organizational strength in the party had not ebbed, whatever others claimed. Levy recalled how in 1983 when he challenged Shamir for the premiership, the result was relatively narrow, 56 (Shamir) to 44.

A year later, he resolved not to contest Shamir's leadership for fear of weakening the Likud in the general elections. Then he immediately agreed to manage the election campaign for Shamir. He stressed the obstacles facing them, especially in running the first elections without Menachem Begin at the head of the list and the polls promising a Labour landslide. "They scoffed when I predicted a narrow outcome, and argued that no government could be formed without us," he recalled. It was at that juncture that his

sense of outrage came to the fore when fellow ministers tried to push him out as a "reward" for all his efforts. Did he feel that members of the old-timers' inner circle were plotting to get him out? "Surely you don't expect me to answer that one," he responded, but proceeded to point out that "things are changing in our movement."

I MENTIONED Sharon's formula: "Begin is our movement leader, Shamir is the head of our list." Levy replied: "Arik is only using my phrase. Look, I helped to negotiate



David Levy (Uzi Karem)

the national unity government. I fought for the rotation agreement, and when others despaired, I persisted. They said it was unfeasible. As to the rotation agreement, I find it inconceivable that our partners would dare not to honour their commitment after we fulfilled ours.

"I repeat: Shamir is my representative for the rotation agreement, I'm for playing according to the rules. But I wish to go on record once again that when elections come round

I will contest the No.1 place on the list."

I drew the deputy premier's attention to two separate headlines in the paper. The first referred to his spending millions of dollars on building up the Gush Etzion outpost in Hebron and plans for another 11 settlements. The second spoke of one in five men in Kiryat Shmona being out of work. How could David Levy, a citizen of Beit She'an, agree to neglecting development towns in order to transfer funds to Judea and Samaria?

Levy took the implied criticism in his stride. "One does not have anything to do with the other", he averred. First of all, he stressed, "development towns do not lack housing; their problem is unemployment."

"You may remember that in a previous interview with you a year ago I warned of such dangers arising from the economic programme. I am pleased that the government has endorsed my programme for tackling unemployment in the towns, although we are waiting for the necessary means to get going."

"In essence, my plan is to detach their problems from the outcome of the general programme. I wish them to be categorized for selective treatment. This can be done by buttressing existing firms suffering from lack of credit and so forth. Then we have to create new sources of work, plus general state favouritism for development towns."

"I also managed to obtain support for my proposal for 10 per cent tax rebates for inhabitants of the towns, plus such favourable conditions as almost free land for building homes, business and industrial plants."

"My intention is for them to enjoy equal conditions to those in Judea and Samaria. I wish to make the development towns as attractive to entrepreneurs and so increase the number of jobs. We have already set up an inter-ministerial committee to

carry out the programme."

As to Hebron, Levy said the budding programme there came under his aegis as part of his ministerial duties in implementing a long-standing cabinet decision. No extra funds would be involved, the money was part of the housing budget, he stressed. I noted the convenient timing of the Hebron ceremony - just in time for the Herut central committee meeting. He replied disarmingly: "The event was in keeping with government policy and my ideology and on top of that, it did me good among these committee members who have been casting aspersions on my ideological soundness, then I'll be frank with you: like anyone else in the political game, I'm quite pleased at the timing."

LEVY CRITICS have charged him with stepping out of line to support Peres and Rabin in the first vote on the Lebanon withdrawal. "My conscience is clear," he said. "I remain convinced that I was right, and I was happy to have persuaded others to follow my example in later votes. The record of the past year shows how much our deterrent strength has been enhanced and the IDF no longer suffers daily casualties."

The deputy premier concluded the interview with a warning about the state budget and its inherent trends. So far, he stressed, salaried workers have borne the brunt of effects to curb inflation.

To him, the litmus test of the economic programme was in avoiding unemployment. As he put it: "One can turn off all the taps, but nothing will grow on arid land." He believes that a combination of design and happenstance - lower inflation, drastically reduced wages, emergency American aid, next to no development, consumption of reserve stocks, the decline in the dollar and the steep drop in oil prices on the world market - had so far kept the lid on.

THE EUROPEAN tour of Prime Minister Shimon Peres has become quite a media event, with his meeting in The Hague with Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, who delivered the formal establishment of diplomatic ties as a belated New Year's present and today's much-awaited luncheon at Kensington Palace with Prince Charles and Princess Diana. The press corps were trying meanwhile to pin down reports of a secret meeting with King Hussein. As it would coincide with the countdown of Peres's ninth month to the rotation, there are wits who wonder, whether it'll end in a new diplomatic creation, a miscarriage or in Labour having lots of pains?

Meanwhile observers were trying to fathom the nature of the cross-channel shuttles of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy reportedly between the King and our PM. If anyone wondered who was the mystery man seen on TV to-ing and fro-ing, I can assure you that the genial smile and spectacles were not part of U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering's disguise but as integral a part of his equipment as his closely-held brief case.

Peres is accompanied by the PM's office Director-General Avraham Tamir, political adviser Nimrod Novik and media counsellor Uri Savir. I gather all had a giggle about Tamir's half-joking proposal to import some of the royal peacocks strutting around the official Dutch guesthouse to live up to the PM's office in Jerusalem. The PM made the unusual decision of taking along with him relatives of the three soldiers missing-in-action in the Lebanon War - Zecharya Bammel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, hoping they'll benefit from his media coverage and meetings with VIPs in forcing the Syrians to provide further information on the boys.

THE PM left behind a disgruntled Labour Party, whose leaders like party secretary-general Uzi Baram fear that Peres does not hear the tick-tock of the rotation clock as clearly as they do. Peres lost his cool at a stormy session with fellow Labour MKs when he defended Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i neo-conservative policies. Arguing "there's no deluxe cure for the economy," with Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar asking, "is protecting Moda'i already an ideology?" Moda'i, for his part, relished having Peres force Labourites to toe his line, enabling him to enjoy even further the surprise 60th birthday party put together by his bureau director, Yehudit Cohen. He even got a backhanded compliment during the Knesset debate on the budget when Herut MK Gideon Gadot, referring to the minister's mercurial

# Nine-month countdown

PUBLIC FACES/Mark Segal



Edgar Bronfman (Isaac Harari)

Morocco-born Sam Toledano be forgotten.

ISRAEL'S foreign and local press corps were busy this week pursuing Henry and Nancy Kissinger through their over-packed agenda. One can hardly blame Mrs. K. for displaying impatience at the paparazzi's relentless appetite for extra shots of her in the Old City shuk. But after all that's the price of fame. Old Kissinger hands think he's showing more of his sentimental side nowadays. At the dinner given by Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee Chairman Abba Eban and his wife Suzie at their Herzliya home, Dr. K. dwelt on his special feelings for the Jewish state ("It's not just another foreign country for us"), confessing that when his family fled Hitler's Germany for America, he might have come here. People doubt whether Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'acobi will be the same since Kissinger told the other guests at the dinner party held in his honour by Sava and Shimon Peres at their residence Saturday evening that he planned his journey here to coincide with the 51st birthday of his old student at Harvard. Indeed, on the morning when Ya'acobi filled in for Peres at the Tel Aviv University ceremony with TAU President Prof. Moshe Many awarding Kissinger an honorary doctorate, he reported that the former U.S. secretary of state confessed that the menora he received in Jerusalem was in pride of place in his Boston home.



Yitzhak Moda'i (Hanoach Guthmann)

His old pal, Teddy Kollek, hosted a breakfast at home where Dr. K. had the chance of hearing such leading Arabists as Prof. Moshe Maor, Amnon Cohen, and Emmanuel Sivan. Teddy recalled meeting Kissinger 25 years ago, when he asked him for a donation to The Jerusalem Foundation. Teddy said, "If you forget, it's still not too late." When Kissinger toured the Israel Museum with director Martin Weyl, he refused to eat in the cafeteria, saying, "As the son of a Jewish mother, I always have guilt feelings when I get near food."

HUNDREDS OF Wizo delegates flew in for their 65th anniversary conference and were told by world president Raya Jaglom that in world chairman Michael Moda'i, she found the ideal heir-apparent. I met the tireless Jaglom at the 50th anniversary dinner for French Wizo, led by president Odette Kurz. It was attended by French Ambassador Jacques Dupont, Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir and Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo (Chich) Lahat. The menu included an item called "Parisian potatoes." French Wizo magazine editor Marie Gentilly, told me her Paris offices are on Rue du Mont Tabor, marking the only battle Napoleon won in the Holy Land.

WHILE Jewish agency chairman Arye Dutzin will next month be flying with dozens of Zionist execu-



Ze'ev Schiff (Uzi Karem)

tive colleagues and officials to New York for an executive meeting, World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman is due here next week to mark the WJC Congress in Zion. There'll be two private jets bearing the House of Seagram seal landing here - that of Edgar and another belonging to brother Charles Bronfman, Canadian Jewish leader and member of the prime minister's Operation Independence



Shimon Peres (David Brauner)

Task Force. Apart from his executive director, Dr. Israel Singer, Bronfman is bringing over such celebrities as 1984 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Bernard Lown, Nobel Literature Laureate Saul Bellow Venezuela Vice-President Enrique Tarigo. The eminent scholar Sir Isaiah Berlin, Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini, Indian Supreme Court Justice Ram Jethmalani, and Chile's Cardinal Raul Silva Hen-

riquez. Jewish delegations will come from Morocco and Cuba, so I learned from congress media counsellor Ada Hiss-Peles, who, prior to her move to New York, was in 1979 briefly Peres's spokesman.

TYCOON Meshulam Riklis also flew in for the day by private jet to attend the unveiling of the gravestone at Holon cemetery for his mother, Betty who died six months ago. Among the mourners were his 96-year-old father, Phubas's family friends like Adi Melnikoff of Chicago, Mayor Lahat and his old crony, Ariel Sharon. Riklis was flown to Sharon's ranch by an official helicopter which later rushed him to the airport.

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Minister Bill Hayden has shifted his stance since his warm welcome to PLO arch-terrorist Yasser Arafat in 1981. Lately he termed the PLO "a major stumbling block to Middle East peace" when talking to the Australian-Lebanese chamber of Commerce in Melbourne. Our man in Canberra, Yissachar Ben-Yankov who's been on home leave, told me that Hayden is currently studying Zionist history in advance of his appearance as the keynote speaker at the biennial conference of the Australian Zionist Federation, led by Mark Leibler in April.

ALL HIS many friends here and abroad wish a speedy recovery to Ha'aretz defence commentator Ze'ev Schiff, who's just undergone major cardiac surgery.

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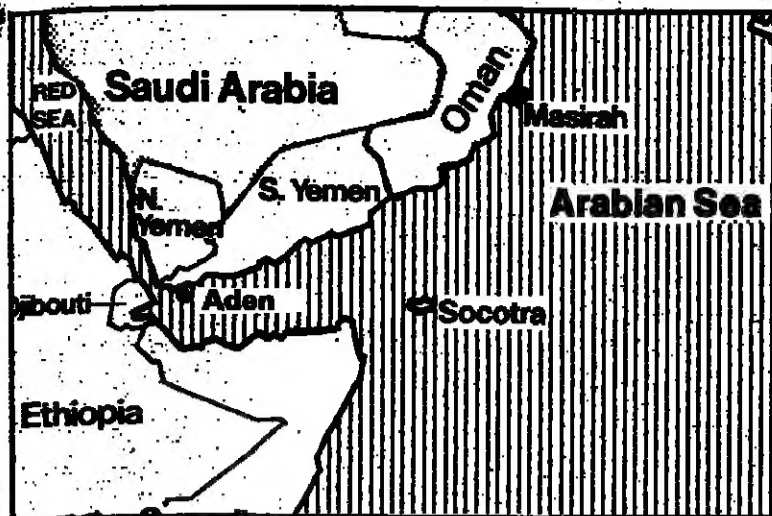
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# Coup and counter-coup

YOSEF GOELL



THERE is a natural tendency for the non-expert Israeli observer of last week's events in South Yemen to view those confusing developments with a degree of superciliousness, until one recalls the complexities and confusions of our own domestic politics.

And yet, the coups and counter-coups, the executions and forced exiles that have punctuated the infighting among the leadership of that southwest corner of the Arabian peninsula do constitute an extreme example of the basic political instability of many of the newly independent Arab states and of the Arab world as a whole.

Dr. Joseph Kostiner, who monitors South Yemen for the Shiloah Institute of Tel Aviv University and whom I consulted in an attempt to make sense of what has been happening there, emphasized that the doctrinal Marxist differences imputed to the leaders of the warring factions are an insufficient explanation for the dispute.

"The tribal rivalries within the sparsely populated mountain and desert hinterland, and the underlying differences between the capital port city of Aden and the tribal areas, are much more important for understanding the country," he says.

South Yemen, or officially, The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, became an independent political entity in November 1967; the result of Britain's relinquishing its empire and of the conglomeration of the British Crown Colony of Aden with the tribal hinterland of the South Yemen mountains and the area of Hadramaut to the east. In size, it is about 10 times the area of Israel, including the West Bank; its population is estimated at about 4 million.

Dr. Kostiner, whose doctorate from the London School of Economics was on Saudi Arabia, but whose master's thesis at Haifa University was on South Yemen, has been contributing the chapter on the latter country to the recent annual issues of the *Dayan Centre's Middle East Contemporary Survey (MECS)*.

In speaking of the differences between Aden and the Yemeni tribal hinterland and Hadramaut, he notes that Aden was occupied by the British in 1939, as part of its lifeline to India and East Africa and was at first administered by its Bombay government and then by the government of India itself from 1932 to 1937, when it became a crown colony.

The federation between Aden and the tribal areas was created under the impetus of threats from the Republic of North Yemen to incorporate the southern areas into a united

Yemen in the 1960s. Nasser's Egypt was then deeply involved in the North Yemeni civil war, and the wonderfully named FLOSY (Front for the Liberation of South Yemen) was based in the North Yemen border city of Ta'iz with Egyptian backing. The British, who were already preparing to leave Aden, pushed its federation with the tribal areas to its immediate north and east, as a counterweight to the domination of the strategic Bab al-Mandeb Straits by a Nasserist-controlled greater Yemen.

The irony of it all is that today North Yemen has turned into a non-aligned Arab State, while South Yemen (The People's Democratic Republic) has turned into the most doctrinaire of the Arab countries to be aligned with the Soviet Union; part of a crescent of Soviet client states ranging from Libya, through Ethiopia, across the straits, South Yemen and Afghanistan.

Today's warring leaders, the possibly deposed president, Ali Nasser Mohammed, and the former president who went into exile in Moscow in 1980, Abdel Fatah Isma'il, had their political beginnings in the Front for National Liberation set up under the aegis of Nasser in the mid-1960s.

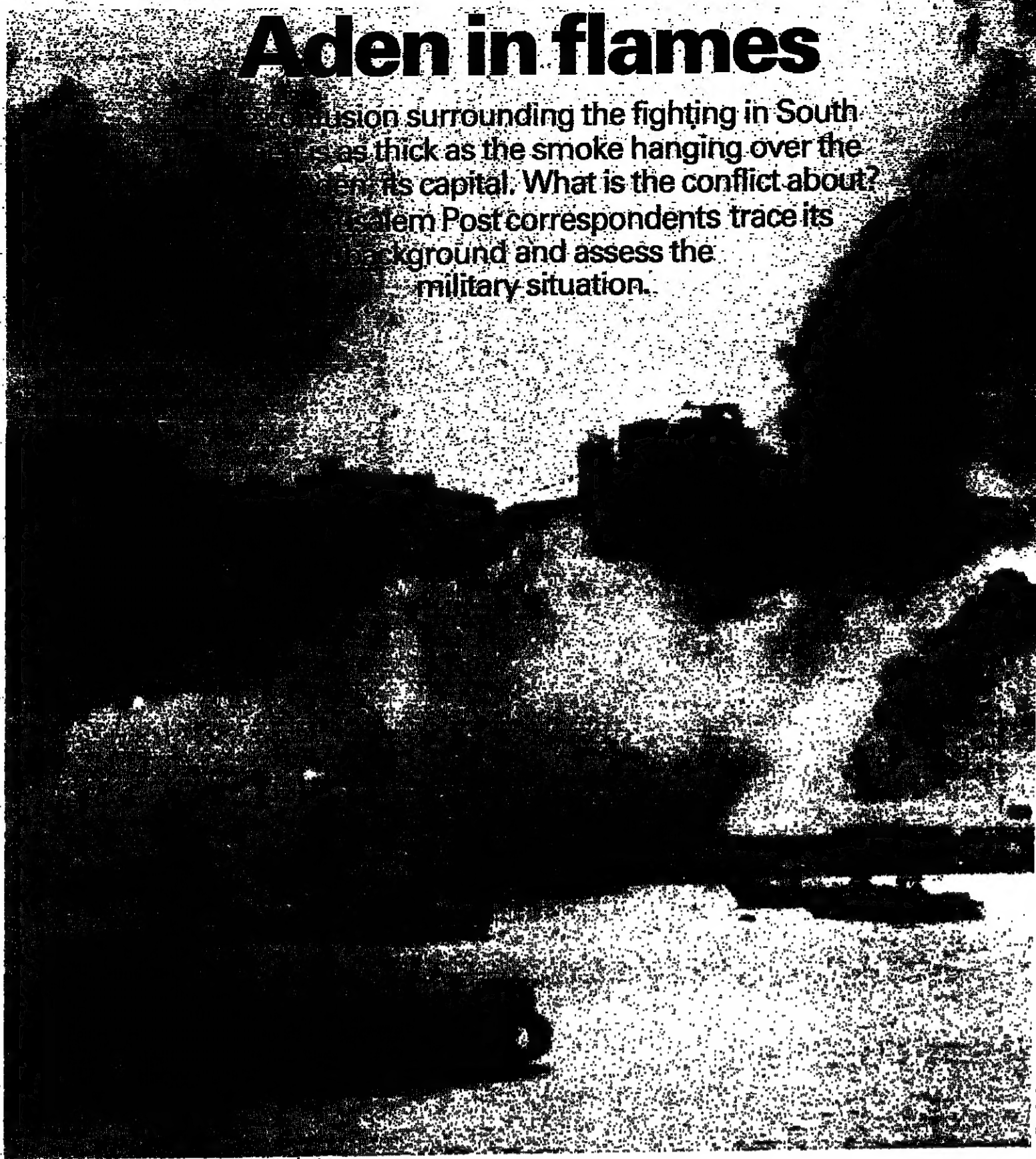
KOSTINER related to me the growth of the country's internal divisions, in addition to the basic split between Aden city and the tribal leaders. One of the historical curiosities of the South Yemen area, he says, has been the presence of a group of people calling themselves the Sayyids, who claim to be direct descendants of the Prophet Mohammed. They have always viewed themselves as privileged, and their position has been a source of resentment for the impoverished tribes of the hinterland.

The newer divisions resulted from the British attempts at reform in Aden in the 1930s and '40s and the beginnings of modernization, primarily with the building of a large oil refinery in the 1950s. Modernization fostered a sizeable trading community of Jews, Italians, Greeks and Indians. New industrial jobs and the modern port attracted workers from North Yemen and the protectorate area.

Kostiner notes that modern political development began with the creation of the Arab National Movement in the 1960s, led at one time by the PLO's George Habash, which was a clear Nasserist front in competition with local Ba'athist influences. The *Kawmiyun el Arabi* started a four year rebellion in 1963,

# Aden in flames

Confusion surrounding the fighting in South Yemen as thick as the smoke hanging over the city's capital. What is the conflict about? The Jerusalem Post correspondents trace its background and assess the military situation.



which ended with the departure of the British in 1967.

There was for a long time a small Communist Party in Aden, Kostiner says. But just as pure Arab nationalists like Habash and the PLO's Hawatmeh eventually turned communist, so did the leaders of the *Kawmiyun* fall under Marxist influence. There was also an additional influence from returning Hadramaut emigrants to Malaya and Indonesia, who came back with Marxist and Maoist ideas.

One of the founding fathers of the National Liberation Front, Kahtan al-Sha'abi, became the first president of the newly independent state. He was considered to be "too rightist," and too much under the Nasserist influence of the members of the triumvirate that itself was gradually coming under the sway of vague Marxist ideas. Al-Sha'abi was deposed by the triumvirate in 1969 and its leader, Salem Rubayi Ali, became president. His courting of relations with the reactionary regime of Saudi Arabia led to his overthrow and execution in 1978 and his replacement by the most leftist of the triumvirate's leaders, Abdel Fatah Isma'il.

Isma'il's turn to be deposed came in 1980; but he was smart enough to go into exile in Moscow for medical treatment. He was replaced by the third member of the triumvirate, the present (if he is still there) president, Ali Nasser Mohammed.

To complicate matters still more, Mohammed was instrumental in inviting Isma'il back from his Moscow exile at the beginning of last year. The present coup is a direct outcome of that apparent naivete or moment of weakness.

WHAT IS the dispute all about? Kostiner mentions the differences between the ultra-doctrinaire Isma'il and the more pragmatic Mohammed, who has been striving for greater South Yemeni openness towards the oil-rich Gulf states as a source of financial support for the economically backward country. He emphasizes however, that both are Marxists, and both are committed to South Yemen's alignment with the Soviet Union.

He reiterates however, the importance of understanding the tribal and regional differences which underlie the personal and ostensibly doctrinal hostilities. In this connection, he notes Isma'il's origins in North Yemen, and his resentment of Mohammed's bringing tribal leaders into the government.

The Soviets are clearly confused and embarrassed at this tangle out among their satraps. Kostiner points out that as paradoxical as it may sound, the Soviets may actually prefer Mohammed to Isma'il, the more doctrinaire Marxist.

He argues that the Soviets are clearly interested in fostering a more relaxed relationship with the conservative Arab Gulf states and that a stringently doctrinaire regime which Isma'il could bring to Aden could queer their pitch.

South Yemen has no intrinsic economic value to any major power. The main Soviet interest is in the Aden base and the facilities they have on the island of Socotra, which controls the entrance to the Red Sea. "Is there any hint of CIA involvement on the side of the Mohammed forces?" I ask. "Absolutely none," Kostiner replies.

The PLO is involved, however, in trying to mediate between the two sides. Following its expulsion from Lebanon, South Yemen has served as a major Arafat line PLO base, which is believed to be far enough removed from the possibility of a surprise Israeli strike.

For further exciting developments in this latest Middle Eastern soap opera, tune in next week.

## Balance of forces

HIRSH GOODMAN

In the present upheaval in South Yemen it seems that the navy, some of the country's 25,000-strong land army and most of the 25,000 civil guards support President Mohammed. Most of the army and probably the air force, some of whose 200 aircraft were used to bomb the presidential palace in the opening stages of the attempted coup, support Isma'il, as do the majority of the army's four armoured and mobile infantry brigades.

Though Isma'il and two of his main supporters, former defence ministers Ali Antar and Salah Kessim, are reported to have been killed, and Mohammed is said to be back in the country, experts predict that the battle is

far from over. All order has broken down; chaos and anarchy appear to have overtaken every aspect of public life, and tribal warfare is said to be raging. According to eye-witnesses, the cost in human and physical terms has been horrendous. Aden has been systematically destroyed, one report claiming it to Dresden after the German city was fire-bombed in World War II.

While there is no knowing how the situation will develop, it is clear that both superpowers and almost all the countries in the region, including distant Israel, have more than a marginal interest in the restoration of Mohammed's rule. The Americans are interested in his continuing his policy of friendship toward their Arab allies in the region. The Soviets want internal stability restored to their main base of operations in the Indian Ocean, the Gulf and the Red Sea as quickly as possible.

Mohammed's government, like Isma'il's, was backed in every

area by Soviet, Cuban and East European advisers. This included all units of the military down to battalion and sometimes even company level, the police, the militia, and all government offices throughout the national bureaucracy. In return, the Soviets had access to the strategically important port of Aden, as well as control of the island of Socotra, situated in Bab al-Mandeb itself. Control of South Yemen east of the straits and of Marxist Ethiopia on the western shore gave the Soviets not only command of the Red Sea, but an excellent base for action in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

The Gulf states, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia obviously prefer a pacific neighbour to a hostile one, and Israel is fearful of South Yemen's again becoming a major base of terrorism that could jeopardize shipping to and from Israel, as in the 1971 Coral Sea affair.

But while Mohammed has

powerful international allies and in addition enjoys the support of most of the armed forces, the militias, the government bureaucrats and the northern tribes, the experts fear that "the jungle has come to the desert," and that as in Uganda, order may never be restored. Indeed, cynics have dubbed Southern Yemen "Uganda by the Red Sea."

Traditionally, events in South Yemen are watched with only the most casual of glances by Israel. We can assume, however, that recent events have engendered new interest, especially Yasser Arafat's sudden intervention on behalf of Mohammed and the despatch of a PLO expeditionary force from North to South Yemen. Though the force's ability to act effectively in the turmoil that has overtaken South Yemen is questionable, the PLO's re-emergence in Bab al-Mandeb is cause for concern. The PLO, after all, needs a new base for operations against Israel, and what better place than at the stranglehold to the Red Sea?

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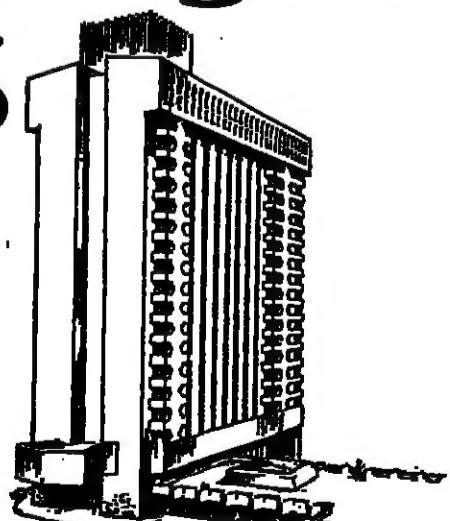
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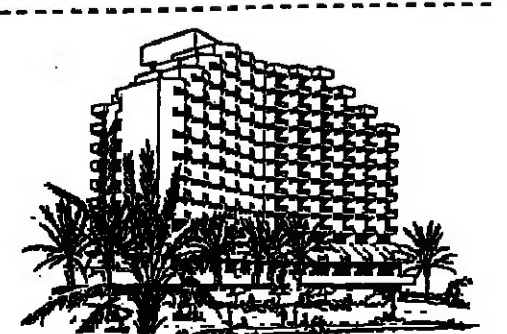
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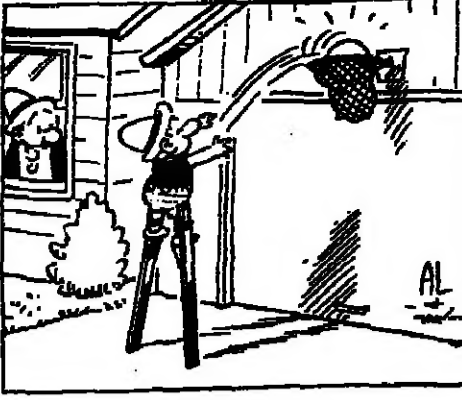
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# Facing reality

ARYE NAOR

THE KNESSET members involved in recent events on the Temple Mount were very excited by their argument with the Arabs who disturbed their visit. So excited were they that some of them failed, first, to take into consideration that it was not the British high commissioner's decision that Jews not pray in public on the Temple Mount; and second, that political reality has its own dynamics. The facts of international politics can, as a result of their approach, contradict their goals.

MKs who fail to recognize reality also contribute to the development of political extremism, one of the country's worst dangers.

In order to analyse that mistaken approach, attention should be paid, first of all, to the facts.

The status quo on the Temple Mount is not a hostile policy of a foreign ruler, but a result of the Israeli decision-making process. Following the military victory and the re-consecration of Jerusalem, the cabinet approved of then defence minister Moshe Dayan's decision concerning the management of the Old City's shrines.

Dayan's concept was that, for the sake of Israel's own sovereignty over Jerusalem, nothing should be changed in the highly sensitive balance of interests and rights in the holy places.

With his sense of pragmatism, Dayan realized that in order to ensure the permanency of the new arrangements, including the fact that Israel continues to govern Jerusalem, the religious status quo should remain, with two exceptions: first, that the Western Wall be under Jewish administration; second, that Jews should also be allowed to enter freely to each of the shrines.

THE LATE prime minister Eshkol's national unity cabinet was careful not to provoke either the Moslem or Christian worlds.

Could it be done differently? Could the government of Israel decide in 1967 on Jewish prayer on the

Mount, where Jewish prayers since the destruction of the Second Temple have been focused?

Some people say that in June 1967 it was possible Israel had its opportunity and as a result of the war even a change in the religious status quo on the Temple Mount could have occurred without significant external interference.

WE SHALL never know if this was correct or not. But even if the government could take a chance of changing the religious status quo it is still very much unclear whether it could ensure the durability of the post-war status quo.

Even if the Moslem world, already shocked by the conquest of Jerusalem's Old City, Hebron and the rest of the territories did not react, it is reasonable to assume they would have done so in the future.

On the other hand, it is a fact that Moslems accepted - under verbal protest but without real resistance - the new arrangements in the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron; and today Jews pray there.

Could this be a precedent for an arrangement on the Temple Mount?

EVEN ONE who shares that opinion cannot escape from the fact that in 1967, when the decision was made, no political voice was raised in favour of Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. From the religious standpoint, only Rabbi Shlomo Goren - then chief military rabbi - held the opinion that it was permissible for a Jew to enter the area of the Mount before the coming of the Messiah.

All the other religious leaders disagreed with him and the chief rabbi, even issued a public state-

ment prohibiting observant Jews from coming to the holy place.

On these grounds, even the supporters of Rabbi Goren - and within the Herut movement he had some support - did not raise their voices enough to make it a political issue.

Moshe Begin came to power 10 years later. The fact that no Jewish public prayer is permitted on the Mount was, at that time, an integral part of the status quo.

Although the Supreme Court had decided that it was up to the government to determine the terms on which Jews would be allowed to pray on the Temple Mount, Begin could not separate such legislation from its international, political context.

The peace process made it even more difficult; and the fact that most of the Orthodox rabbis were against it avoided a painful choice between two contradictory commitments.

IT IS very unlikely to suppose that such a change in the religious status quo, which was neither introduced in 1967 nor in 1977, will suddenly be feasible and desired in 1986. But escalation has its own logic, and events which had started as a demonstration of sovereignty - and one may wonder what is meant by a "sovereignty" which needs to be demonstrated - became in the course of development a matter of religious expression.

Indeed, the need for expression explains a lot of the activities of some of the participants in the Temple Mount affair. In 1980, MK Geula Cohen proposed the Jerusalem Law to the Knesset. That law did not - and as a matter of fact could not - make any real change in either the legal or the material situation in

Jerusalem. The city had been united earlier, by virtue of a law passed by the Knesset in 1967. Objectively, there was no need to reiterate common political and legal knowledge. Nevertheless, Cohen drafted her new law, and the Knesset approved it.

What were the results? A bitter dispute with then U.S. president Carter, anti-Israel discussion and decisions in the UN Security Council, as well as in other UN institutions, and the evacuation of all foreign embassies from Jerusalem.

Of course, this was not the kind of strengthening of Jerusalem as the indivisible capital of Israel that Cohen aimed at; but that past fault does not prevent her and her followers from repeating the same mistake again. The mistake is the utter disregard of the international context of the policy-making.

Israel did not have an interest in renewing an international debate on the situation in Jerusalem, nor did it have any interest in widening the Arab-Israeli political conflict to a Moslem-Jewish religious struggle. But these were the results of the events which had started with the attempt to use a camera on the Mount without permission from the Waqf. In both cases, with the law of 1980 as well as with the events of 1986, the need for expression prevailed and political rationality lost its significance.

Political expressionism is always dangerous, since it tends to lead to irrational behaviour. When expression is an end in itself, and external consequences are not taken into account, or at least are not taken seriously enough into account, the real national interest is not correctly defined and steps necessary to defend it are not taken in time. The result is an unrealistic policy. In the case of Israel, such a policy is a grievous fault which might endanger the future of the nation, still engaged in a struggle for survival.

The writer was cabinet secretary under the Begin administration.

# Leap of action

TORA TODAY / Pinhas Peil

else was there for him to do?

The pious, mystical Torah commentator R' Haim Ben Attar, known by the name of his commentary *Or Hachayim* ("The light of life"), is astonished by God's retort to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?" He says: "What else should a person do when in such great distress? Is that not what the psalmist proclaims (118:4) 'Out of the straits, I called on the Lord'?"

Re-reading the Torah description of that crucial encounter between Pharaoh and the Israelites, in the light of traditional Jewish commentaries, one might discover a momentary dramatic exchange of great significance for the future of Israel as an independent people.

Medieval poet-scholar Abraham Ibn Ezra (1089-1167) puts his question bluntly: "One wonders, why a large camp of 600,000 people should be seized with such fear of those who are pursuing them? Why could they not have fought for their lives and the lives of their children?" The answer, says Ibn Ezra, "is that the Egyptians were until then the masters of the Israelites, and that generation grew up feeling inferior to them, too weak and downcast to resist their master of yesterday."

So, all they did was to cry out to the Lord and express their bitterness to Moses for what he had done to them. Moses well understood how they felt, but tried to explain to them that they were now facing a new era, in which they must not give in to fear.

Note the change in the wording between the descriptive "children of Israel" who "dreadfully feared" as they looked up and saw the advancing Egyptians and "the people" addressed by Moses and being asked

to "stand firm" and "not to be afraid." As individual "children of Israel" acting helplessly and preferring serfdom over freedom, you indeed have every good reason to be afraid. But if you overcome your personal complexes and "stand firm" as a "people" - you will surely see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.

"The Egyptians that you see today," as your masters and overlords, "you will never see again" as such. "The Lord will fight for you and you shall stand still." Fighting for life as a free people, and not running away, is the order of the new day that dawned. If you are not ready for it yet militarily, you must be emotionally prepared, standing by as God does the actual battling for you.

R' Moshe Hefetz, the 17th century Italian rabbi and Bible commentator, suggests a most daring interpretation of this last verse by adding on one question mark to it. Accordingly, Moses says to the people, "stand firm" - do not suffice yourself only with crying out to God. Do you presume that "the Lord will fight for you, while you stand still" doing nothing?

UNTIL NOW the processes of redemption had taken place in two parallel acts: "the children of Israel cried" and "the Lord heard" and saved them. Now, with the first crucial confrontation after the Exodus, this division of roles must come to an end. While still relying on God, the people must now assume responsibility for their fate and act accordingly.

When Moses, too, joins them in prayer, God tells him that this is no time to indulge in prayer. Elaborating on the words "Why are you

crying to me?" says Rabbi Eliezer (2nd century sage): "The Holy One, blessed be he, said to Moses, my children are anguished, the sea is closing in on them, the enemy is chasing them, and all you do is stand here and pray?"

"What then shall I do?" Moses asked. To which God answered: "Tell the Israelites to go forward!"

There comes the moment in the life of a person, or of a people, when their existence must be affirmed by action, not waiting passively for things to be done for them. This was the great hour when history knocked on the door of the Israelites, calling on them to act.

It was not, says the Midrash, until the children of Israel jumped into the sea, the water reaching up to their necks, that the sea split for them and they crossed on dry ground. It was the leap of action which brought on the leap of faith and not vice versa.

IN THE HISTORY of the modern return to Zion too, Jews decided to act towards the coming of Messiah, not just wait for him passively. We are familiar with the pioneering movement of Bilu, an acronym of the verse (Isaiah 2:5) *Bei Yaakov Lekhu Venelkha* (Come, O House of Jacob, let us go), which some students in Russia in 1882 chose as a call for Jews to return to their land. Less known, but a forerunner of Bilu, was another organization dedicated to the same purpose, by the name of Dabru, an abbreviation of the verse discussed above (Ex. 14:15) *Daber el b'nei Israel veysayu* ("tell the children of Israel and let them go forward").

These biblical verses were a statement that the historic moment had come for the return to Zion in our days, that we can no longer sit back and wait passively for redemption, but must take the initiative and move forward.

The Torah reading for this week is *Shemot* (Exodus 13:17-17:16). Rabbi Peil is the Blochman professor of Jewish thought and literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

SHABRAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	4:29 p.m.	5:44 p.m.
Tel Aviv	4:47 p.m.	5:46 p.m.
Haifa	4:37 p.m.	5:43 p.m.
Bereshit	4:46 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
Elul	4:49 p.m.	5:50 p.m.

Tora Portions: Beshalah

**JERUSALEM**  
YERUSHALIM CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE. Friday, Mincha 4:30, Shabbat 8:00, Shabbat 8:30. Dvora Tora: Rabbi Dr. Yosef Green. Hatan: Hatan Rabin.

**JERUSALEM GREAT SYNAGOGUE**. Friday, Mincha 4:30, Shabbat 8:00, Shabbat 8:30. Dvora Tora: Rabbi Dr. Yosef Green. Hatan: Hatan Rabin.

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE**. Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform), 13 King David St. Sunday, 10 a.m.

**SHABRAT RABBI**. Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Israel, Istanbul Synagogue. Jewish Quarter. Old City. Shabbat 8:00. Dvora: Tel. 02-877514.

**TEL AVIV**  
GREAT SYNAGOGUE. 110 Albeck Rd. Services conducted by Chief Cantor Avraham Pressman. Ramban shir before Kabbalat Shabbat, by Synagogue President Avraham Hatzroni, Mincha 5:05, Shabbat 8:00.

**ART GUIDE**  
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**OLD YISHUV COUNTRY MUSEUM**. Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century. World War II, 6 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Alfa Romeo, 1980, 1700, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 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## MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

## Tip of the week

This week's investment opportunity is as even more certain than the one touted in this column on January 9 — to buy coffee before the price increases. This one is the investor's dream, because he is given all the necessary information in advance. It is, of course, the chance to pay *armona* — municipal taxes — early and receive a substantial discount.

In years gone by, the offer (by the Jerusalem municipality, at least, though made by many others as well) to pay *armona* in one of several different ways, each with a reduction of some percent and a different payment schedule, was the subject of endless debate among laymen and economists.

The number of assumptions necessary before a decision which alternative to adopt could be made, was enough to relegate the whole exercise to owners of mainframe computers. What will the rate of inflation be over 6 or 12 months? What will the rate of devaluation be? What could the money used for early payment bring in an alternative investment — in the share market, in bank shares, in who knows what?

Today, in the new era of stability, all these factors lose their significance. Inflation is low (but see next item); devaluation non-existent, unless you live off German marks; the share market is also non-existent, for practical purposes; bank interest rates are around 20-30 per cent per annum.

Against this background, the municipality is offering a 27 per cent reduction for anyone paying the *armona* before February 2. In fact, the annualized saving is greater than 27 per cent, because the full amount is payable over the coming fiscal year (April-March) rather than in one year's time. In any case, even at 27 per cent this represents a "real" return, because the payment through a monthly standing-order is linked.

Thus if there is no inflation, the yield on the money "invested" in the *armona* payment is 27 per cent at least. If there is inflation of, say 2 per cent, over the year, then the return will be something along the lines of  $(100 + 27 + x) / (100 + x)$  over the year, which will still be a good level for anything up to some 300 per cent inflation.

If you expect more than that — may the Lord preserve you (and us). If, conversely, you have a better sure thing for a sum of a few hundred dollars — such as an imminent oil strike — please let us all know.

Three Cheers for Fruits and Veg.

Even if you're not a confirmed health freak, living on fruit and vegetables as a staple of your diet, you gotta love the little rascals. The half-monthly price index published yesterday showed them up to their little tricks once again, putting all the ponderous pontificating of the professional forecasters straight in the garbage can.

This time it was those delightful delicatessen and mandarinis that succeeded in maneuvering the Treasury and Industry Ministry mandarins, by jumping the index 1.5 per cent for half a month. A month or two ago, fruit and veg. had caused the index to come in much lower than anticipated, and a month or two before that the whole economic programme was in danger after being hit by a rotten, but expensive, tomato.

The interesting thing is that fruits and vegetables are the only important items not to have been controlled — because even the geni from the Jerusalem office cannot figure out how to sit on the price of these goods without squashing them and the market for them.

Since that rarest of events in Israel — market forces push the prices up and down, the weather affects them and, in a nutshell, the real world is reluctantly recognized, better than being shut out.

Now we have the prospect of price control being lifted on a number of sectors, albeit in a slow, hesitant manner (gradual and controlled are the favored terms, thereby achieving the ultimate bureaucratic double-talk, a "controlled deregulation"). If this process is allowed to make any progress, we may just get an idea what the real rate of inflation is in this country.

**Bourgeois week**  
Another week of singular irrelevance passed over the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Bond prices, for instance, fell slightly in every one of the five trading sessions — investors having given up hope of renewed inflation or devaluation. Shares meandered in an aimless manner, some sectors gaining and then giving ground, others waiting the reverse cycle.

## THE TYRANNY OF LABOUR

## Employers of the world — unite

PURSE STRINGS/David Krivine

An employer is free to hire workers; should be free to fire them? A Labour Contracts Bill that has passed its first reading (and is now in committee) says no.

There must be a good and sufficient reason for dismissal. The bill would empower the labour courts to demand reinstatement if they saw fit.

That is going too far. Labour legislation is justified where the workers have a grievance; but in this case it is the other way round. Job security in Israel is, if anything, excessive. A company has to go bankrupt before it can shed labour. Workers' committees are strong enough to veto sanctions, whatever the reason.

If the Labour Contracts Bill were to come in place of trade union action, there might be something to be said for it. A manufacturer, arguing that as a result of mechanization (introduced in order to stay competitive) his plant is overmanned, would probably be allowed to reduce staff. The courts could not take exception to that.

Nor would they forbid the closure of a company that has become insolvent, like Israel Shipyards. Or take the case of Hezy Koka, head of the technicians' works committee at Israel Television.

The Israel Broadcasting Authority had decided, the last time TV screens were blacked out, that the person or persons responsible for the next unauthorized shutdown would be shown the door.

The attorney-general considers that the IBA has a case; but the Histadrut has other views, and it will not abdicate its role in the fight for jobs. If it did, it would cease to be a trade union.

The bill is therefore superfluous. Union leaders do not need the help (or hindrance) of the courts. Overlapping jurisdictions only create confusion.

**SOME FREEZE** I buy *The Economist* every week. When Israeli prices were frozen last year, its cost in the shops was NIS 5. A couple of months ago I was charged NIS 5.5, a 10 per cent increase.

I looked up the magazine's American price, found it to remain unchanged at \$2.50 or (in our money) NIS 3.75; and that includes the cost of air-freighting it across the Atlantic. NIS 5 would therefore seem to be enough for the Israeli version, so I reported the matter to the price control authorities.

Result so far: the price of *The Economist* has been upped a second time to NIS 6.

## BANKING NEWS / By Pinhas Landau

## Hapoalim Announces Switch to Quarterly Interest Charges

Bank Hapoalim yesterday became the first bank to announce officially its intention to begin charging interest on overdrafts and credit lines on a quarterly basis, with effect from April 1. For the last two years, as inflation ran amok, the banks have been collecting interest on a monthly basis. Recently, the Bank of Israel has brought pressure on the commercial banks to revert to the old quarterly system, as a response to the sharp drop in inflation rates.

Although all the banks agreed at a meeting a week ago that they would make this switch soon, none had formally committed themselves to do so until Hapoalim's move yesterday. It is expected that this will jog

the other banks into following suit.

The economic impact of the reversion to quarterly charges will be to relieve some of the pressure on firms in financial trouble, by removing a large monthly payment which had to be financed out of cash-flow. Furthermore, even if nominal interest rates stay the same, collecting the interest quarterly instead of monthly reduces the effective rate of interest to the borrower.

It also lowers the banks' profits — hence the reluctance to make the switch.

**Automation Marches On**  
The inter-bank rivalry in the provision of automated services continues to heat up. Where once the smaller banks, notably Mizrahi and First International, led the field,

recently the big banks have been investing heavily to catch up and surprise competitors.

Bank Leumi, having already announced a new electronic mail service to its clients beginning next month, has now launched a campaign to spread the good news on plastic cards.

Leumi customers who have not yet obtained the Visa credit card or the Caspamor card, can order them until the end of February and pay half the annual charge, for the first year they hold them.

Hapoalim has announced that it has succeeded in putting 210 of its branches on its on-line network, which allows tellers to obtain up-to-date information on a customer's account and to enter transactions directly into the computer.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

## MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:		
General Share Index	98.26	-0.47%
Non-Bank Index	101.77	-0.23%
Arrangement	96.82	-0.62%
Insurance	101.46	+1.34%
Commerce, Services	102.68	+0.21%
Real Estate	108.06	-0.44%
Investment Cos.	101.83	+0.20%
Industrials	100.05	-0.51%
Metals	102.65	-0.75%
Textiles	97.58	+0.59%
Electronics	96.56	-0.68%
Chemicals	101.44	-1.47%
Industrial Invest.	98.14	-0.67%
General Bond Index	97.84	-0.05%
Index-linked Bonds	96.07	-0.05%
Fully-linked	96.63	-0.19%
Partially-linked	97.79	+0.04%
Dollar-linked Bonds	96.74	-0.08%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	97.26	+0.11%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	96.17	+0.02%
Long-term 5+ yrs	95.56	+0.24%

Turnovers:		
Share — total	NIS 3,255,800	
Arrangement	NIS 1,502,800	
Non-bank	NIS 1,753,000	
Bonds — total	NIS 3,383,100	
Index-linked	NIS 1,643,200	
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,739,900	
Treasury Bills	NIS 1,083,400	
Share Movements:		
Advances	133	(97)
Declines	21	(1)
Unchanged	122	(122)
Of which 5%+	2	(2)
Of which 5%-	11	(11)
Unchanged	112	(107)
Trading volume index	42	(40)
Bond Market Trends:		
Index-linked	11	(11)
Fully-linked	2	(2)
Partially-linked	1	(1)
Dollar-linked	1	(1)

4.25% fully-linked		
80% linked	1.4333	1.4917
90% linked	2.0875	2.0832
Double-linked:	8018	8034
Dollar-linked:	1.959	1.984
Admon	5300	5366
Rimon	7099	7187
Gilboa	1231	1255
For. Curr.	1.945	1.970
denominated	1.836	1.857
Treasury Bills	2708	2740
(monthly yield)	1.0484	1.0625
1.0475	1.0625	1.08
For. Curr.	5483	5563
denominated	2902	2938
Treasury Bills	8858	8865
(monthly yield)	8827	8838
1.0475	1.0625	1.08
For. Curr.	7276	7368
denominated	3.94	4.16
Treasury Bills	.83	.88

## SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Names	Price	Volume	%
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
First Int'l	2560	2315	+2.4
First Int'l	2380	995	—
Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB	73770	6238	-1.4
Union 0.1	54800	146	-0.9
Discount	84400	108	-1.0
Mizrahi	30200	608	-1.9
Hapoalim	50000	4918	-0.4
General A	129410	10	-0.8
Leumi 0.1	37800	428	—
Fin. Trade	42780	—	—
Mortgage Banks			
Leumi Mort.	3225	80	-1.5
Dev. Mort.	815	200	-0.5
Mishkan	1705	35	-0.3
Tel Aviv	11580	—	—
Merviv	1580	264	-4.0
Financial Institutions			
Agri C	24500	—	—
Ind. Dev. DD	4500	10	+0.7
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1	2951	251	+2.3
Hemshet	2125	1630	+0.2
Phoenix 0.1	1160	575	+2.2
Hemshet	4680	—	—
Menorah	5540	2	+4.5
Sahar	2388	95	—
Zion Hold.	7450	—	—

Trade & Services		
Mair Ezra	4180	50 +4.8
Supercol 2	3771	68 —
Delek 1	3823	273 —
Lightage	8639	6 —
Cold Storage	775	100 —
Dan Hotels	3476	— -8.1
Yarden Hotel	1877	48 -3.0
Hilton 1	5000	— —
Team 1	1430	224 -2.1
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture		
Azoria	2600	6089 -0.8
Elion	330	604 —
Africa Int. 0.1	31400	— —
Deniner	2380	52 —
Prop. & Bldg.	3870	165 -0.3
Bayside 0.1	8605	18 —
LDIC	27890	74 +1.5
Rasoco	2140	86 +4.4
Mehadrin	11128	127 -1.8
Hadarim	1840	256 —
Industrials		
Dubek	2330	149 +1.7
Pri-2a 1	3823	555 +1.8
Sudirost	5305	120 +1.5
Elbe	9600	12 -0.5
Adgar	552	286 -3.9
Arganet	4020	2 -2.7
Delta 0.1	3240	254 +2.2
Maquet 0.1	18700	3 -5.5
Eagle 1	8800	22 -2.4
Polyart 0.1	7600	75 +1.4
Schellertine	9770	4 -2.7
Rogovin	2772	269 —
Urban 0.1	11700	14 —
Is. Can Co. 1	715	1425 +0.4
Zion Cable	1600	41 +1.5
Pecker Steel	3800	57 -1.4
Eilat 3	405000	9 -1.5

Elron	352000	2	—
Arut	36000	23	+2.3
Electronics	2250	559	-2.1
Electronics 1	1460	757	—
A.T. 1	1080	155	+1.9
Interstein 1	3265	745	+8.9
Agan 5	1360	11	-2.2
Agan 1	790	150	-1.2
Electro	2730	35	-8.2
Electro	8975	10	+6.0
Leifin Chem.	885	76140	+2.6
Aviv r	4740	28	-0.8
Advanced Sea t	12500	345	—
Electrochem.	323	12890	+3.2
Leifin Chem.	3600	41	+0.8
Plutaron	9500	112	-1.9
Advanced Paper	134000	80	—
Central Trade	5230	545	-0.4
Loop p	4040000	—	—
Alal Inds.	1142	3756	-0.9
<b>Investment Companies</b>			
IDB Dev. r	2790	2023	—
Elion	1750	81	—
Elit	620	440	+1.5
Gahetel	1280	19	-1.5
Israel Corp. 1	3480	385	+2.2
Wolfson 1 r	58900	1	+0.7
Hapoalim Inv.	3880	474	+1.2
Leumi Invest.	3845	231	-1.9
Discount Invest.	3785	6549	-0.1
Mizrahi Invest.	7800	56	+2.1
Clat 10	1950	3629	—
Landsec 0.1	5650	10	+0.9
Parm 0.1	5600	349	+1.1
<b>Oil Exploration</b>			
Paz Oil Expl.	10500	10	—
J.O.E.L.	1325	857	+2.2
<b>Abbreviations:</b>			
a.s. sellers only	b. buyers	r. registered	
b.o. buyers only			

## FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

## Israel Money Markets

**SHEKEL INTEREST RATES**  
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 2½% per month  
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	23.1	12-28%	15-28%	12-24%
HAPOALIM	9.1	15-28%	20-28%	21-28%
DISCOUNT	23.1	16-28%	18-28%	18-27%
MIZRAHI	9.1	12-19%	12-24%	12-24%
FIRST INT'L	9.1	16-30%	20-28%	26-28%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 99 days.)

## PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of January 23)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	7.500	7.500	7.750
STG	12.500	12.500	12.250
DMK	4.000	4.000	4.112
SFR	2.375	2.375	2.500
YEN	2.350	2.350	2.500

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

## SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	BANKNOTES	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.4733	1.4917	1.4825
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.0875	2.0832	2.0724
GERMANY	MARK	8018	8034	8032
FRANCE	FRANC	1.959	1.984	1.972
HOLLAND	GILDER	5300	5366	5373
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	7099	7187	7137
DUTCH GILDER	FLUIN	1231	1255	1243
SWEDEN	KRONA	1.945	1.970	1.959
NORWAY	KRONE	1.836	1.857	1.846
DENMARK	MARK	2708	2740	2723
FINLAND	DOLLAR	1.0484	1.0625	1.0541
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.0475	1.0625	1.0541
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	5483	5563	5510
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	2902	2938	2961
BEELGIUM	FRANC	8858	8865	8810
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	8827	8838	8878
ITALY	LIRE	7276	7368	7336
JAPAN	YEN	3.94	4.16	3.9509
JORDAN	DINAR	.83	.88	.8581
EGYPT	POUND			

(SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI LEISRAEL)

## European Financial Markets

## Precious Metals

GOLD:	LONDON	A.M. FIX	352.75	P.M. FIX	353.00
SILVER:	LONDON	NOON FIX	350.07	ZURICH P.M.	350.75
PLATINUM:	LONDON	FIX	614.20		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	371.25		
		P.M.	105.00		

## FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

Forward Rates	SPOT	3MTHS	6MTHS	12MTHS
POUND STERLING	1.383040	185/180	350/345	605/590
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.4487/07	218/211	415/405	820/805
SWISS FRANC	2.0750/50	203/193	387/382	810/780
DUTCH GILDER	2.7615/20	189/188	325/315	670/640
FRENCH FRANC	7.5275/25	729/770	1425/1500	2100/2300
JAPANESE YEN	201.90/00	67/60	180/150	355/335
ITALIAN LIRA	1670.52/0	370/410	690/740	1140/1240
BELGIAN FRANC	50.05/10	25/33	45/55	85/70
MONGOLIAN DOLLAR	7.3110/00	335/285	620/580	1150/1050
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4385/05	48/38	87/87	153/117
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.4040/50	76/81	135/145	250/225
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.7115/25	183/178	321/322	535/545
SWEDISH KRONA	7.6200/00	135/140	220/210	320/300
NORWEGIAN KRONA	7.5800/00	885/525	1780/1635	3000/2700
DANISH KRONA	5.8900/00	0/60	0/110	0/210



# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## Pulling apart

FOR THE FIRST time in a long while Israel's two governments - the Alignment's and the Likud's equally-weighted wings of the misnamed national unity government - have come together to play down reports that Egypt would renege on its promise to deliver the report of its investigating committee on the Ras Burka massacre to Jerusalem.

Both the Foreign Ministry, headed as it is by the Likud's titular leader, Yitzhak Shamir, and - in the absence of the Europe-touring premier, Shimon Peres - senior Labour politicians, have agreed that any such conclusion is at least highly premature.

Mr. Shamir will officially ascertain whether the Egyptian foreign minister, Ismet Abdel Meguid, did in fact make the statement attributed to him in this matter. And the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Labour's Abba Eban, has observed that statements made by senior Egyptian officials need not in any case be taken as representing the policy of President Hosni Mubarak.

There is reason for this apparent unanimity between the old foes. The Likud has a certain, if limited, proprietary interest in the peace with Egypt, which was negotiated and signed by Menachem Begin. The Alignment, for its part, is anxious to solidify the peace in the south and then extend the process in the east.

It is still to be seen how the two administrations will react to the statement on Israel TV's Arabic-language programme last night by Egyptian charge d'affaires Mohammed Bassiouny, that the report will not be delivered, but that Ambassador Moshe Sasson can obtain the text of the Alexandria military court's verdict in the Suleiman Khater case, with all the enclosed documents, and that this should suffice. The Foreign Ministry's spokesman had made the point earlier in the day that perhaps it would suffice, depending on what was in the verdict and in the documents.

On the issue of peace with Jordan and the Palestinians, however, the Alignment and the Likud remain as much at odds as ever.

At The Hague and in London this week Mr. Peres, acting much of the time through his spokesmen, has been sounding fairly euphoric about the prospect of a breakthrough towards peace negotiations sometime soon. The premier himself made no significant disclosures and no actual promises, but he did express his belief that King Hussein was "coming to terms with the real situation." What this plainly meant was that Mr. Peres had knowledge, presumably conveyed to him by shutting U.S. diplomat Richard Murphy, that King Hussein, who had been in London earlier in the week, had abandoned hope of persuading Yasser Arafat to meet Israel's basic demands for the participation of his emissaries in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The composition of that team has been a major sticking point, and the impression Mr. Peres left was that the problem was about to be solved by Hussein ditching the PLO and going alone into direct peace negotiations with Israel, under the aegis of an international forum.

Mr. Shamir might have waited a day or two for Monte Carlo radio, ordinarily a reliable purveyor of information on the Middle East, to quote "Amman sources" as denying any basis for the Israeli optimism. But the foreign minister - now also acting premier - could not forbear from immediately putting out signals that he knew Mr. Peres's talk about progress to be all poppycock, even though he had not been briefed about it at all, and that, at any rate, he would never agree to any "international conference" seeking to impose a settlement upon Israel.

While this week's events confirm that harmony between the coalition's two major parties can sometimes but only rarely be expected, they also indicate that the present drift of things is making a mockery of any notion of sound government.

Our advice to Mr. Peres: If you cannot yet publicize the reasons for your optimism, dampen the urge to express it. And to Mr. Shamir: If the premier's peace policy, which you endorsed in the cabinet, is anathema to you, quit.

## Tu Bishvat

THE HOLIDAY of Tu Bishvat, Arbor Day, on which thousands of trees are planted throughout the land, is a reminder of how diligently Israel has clothed the country's naked hills and its arid deserts in trees.

When the return to the Jewish homeland began, vast areas had been denuded over the centuries by the ravages of war and man's contempt for the environment. The Keren Kayemet began its work in 1906, when it planted its first grove, some olive trees, at Ben Shimon. By 1948, it had planted 5m. trees. Since statehood, a further 168 m. trees have been added. Today the statistics are astonishing: to 300,000 dunams of natural forest, 750,000 dunams of artificial forests have been added by the Keren Kayemet.

Behind the statistics is the story of the remarkable nature of the land redemption. Nothing seemed more hopeless than planting trees in such badlands as the denuded Judean hills around Jerusalem or the brown wastes of the semi-desert Negev. Today Jerusalem is surrounded by a vast green belt of trees reminiscent of Switzerland. Even more remarkable, perhaps, has been the afforestation of the Negev.

So, on Tu Bishvat, as we plant our trees, we are entitled to say with pride that we have kept faith with the land.

## PERES DETECTS

(Continued from Page One)

Peres's invitation to visit Israel this year, to continue talks she has described as "enjoyable, interesting and constructive."

"I came to Britain in the winter, but it felt like summer," Peres told a reception in London last night.

Thatcher responded with an impromptu speech telling Peres he had "touched a chord in the hearts and minds of the British people." Peres had proved himself in the field of economics, had shown a delicate diplomatic touch, and had worked hard to reach security for all in his region. Thatcher said. Since coming to Britain, she added, he had earned the respect of all those with whom he had come into contact.

Thatcher showed her new friendship for Peres when answering questions in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon. Andrew Faulds, a one-time actor and now Labour MP, was shouted down when he challenged Thatcher to tell Peres to accept the validity of the PLO.

"Peres should understand that if he did not use the moderate influence of his sentence was lost in the chorus of boos from all sides of the House, a vastly different atmosphere from when Israel is usually mentioned in Parliament.

Peres, seated in the public gallery alongside Israel ambassador Yehuda Avner, smiled as Thatcher rejected calls for PLO involvement in peace efforts. "I do not think there is any question of accepting the PLO until they accept Resolutions 242 and 338, renounce terrorism and accept the right of Israel to exist," she asserted.

During Peres's session with Kincock, the British Labour leader believed his party's firm pro-PLO stance, according to Israeli sources, and accepted in principle an invitation to visit Israel. Peres also met with Social Democratic Party head David Owen, Liberal leader David Steele, and Conservative Friends of Israel.

His scheduled meeting at the House of Commons with Trade and Industry Secretary, Leon Brittan was postponed while the minister spent the most uncomfortable 30 minutes of his parliamentary life being defended by Thatcher in a hostile House of Commons.

After last night's reception, Peres went to see *Les Miserables*, before returning for his late night session with Murphy.

Today's highlight is his lunch at Kensington Palace with the Prince and Princess of Wales. Tomorrow, he is to meet with representatives of Jewish community organizations.

ANY BUDGET or economic policy, even in times of relative tranquility, can be faulted on details, and it is easy to carp on technicalities. Still easier is it to pick holes in a budget that compromises between conflicting claimants and, in addition, is the continuation of stabilization policy so audacious and sweeping that it came close to the limits of economic feasibility and social and political acceptability in a democratic society.

The budget that was given its first Knesset reading this week is not to be criticized on the same grounds as the stabilization policy it continues. On the contrary, it is open to criticism precisely because it is merely a linear continuation of the recovery programme launched last July and fails to build on its success and so lay the foundations for renewed economic growth - the government's avowed ultimate purpose.

The failure reflects something far worse than an understandable timidity or an effort to consolidate a still precarious stability. The 1986 budget may be an irreversible sin of omission - a budget of stability for its own sake, of stagnation that may last far beyond the next fiscal year. It missed opportunities that are not likely to recur, and certainly not in their present combination.

ECONOMIC growth - and it goes without saying that no one means a short-term demand-induced reflation, but balanced and stable long-term growth - does not miraculously generate itself. It must be fertilized by real resources - capital accumulation, technical progress in the means of production and skilled labour.

It is imperative that the labour force's level of skills be raised so as to raise productivity. But little can be done in the short run, particularly when cut-backs in education mortgage the future. Let us therefore concentrate on the capital-cum-technology factors of greater productivity, which in part can substi-

tute for labour skills.

Many economists argue that the existing capital stock is underutilized, why increase it in the short- and medium-term to augment output? They also insist that a "structural change" away from public services into (exportable) production will marry existing excess capital to the necessary labour force and give birth to growth.

But that is doubtful, given our technical backwardness (compared with competing economies), obsolescence and structural impediments to utilization of existing capital stock, especially for exports. Labour forcibly expelled from the services will not necessarily shift to or even be wanted by industry. Growth based on more advanced technology may very well require less labour, as has been the trend in the industrialized economies.

For the sake of the argument let's say there is no short- or medium-term need for a significant quantitative increase in capital stock. We may, in everyday language, not be in urgent need of more enterprises. Nevertheless, a shift towards technically more advanced industries generally implies, at least in part, a quantitative increase of the capital stock - investment in new plant and machinery. Modernization certainly requires the replacement of the obsolescent by state-of-the-art equipment, considerable improvements in infrastructure, and more resources for research and development.

Taken together, this requires more capital per worker - not more workers in industry, but more industry per worker. Much of this will readily be granted; the counter-argument will be that the economy does not have the resources and

must first free them from other uses to make them available for investment.

At this point we must go back to the budget and ask whether it is reasonable to expect any greater shift of real resources away from consumption to investment? Or any external addition to our resources, or any other development, that will make revived investment and growth likely during or after fiscal 1986?

Let's take the domestic scene first. The prime factor in the success of the stabilization programme was the 23 per cent cut in real wages from the average of 1983, 1984 and the beginning of 1985. This drastic cut, accepted by the workers with hardly a murmur, reduced average private consumption only fractionally. And for obvious reasons. Wages account for about half of total disposable private income, and even wage earners apparently reduced voluntary savings to maintain their customary consumption.

In any event, no one expects wages and private consumption to fall further. In fact, the Treasury predicts they will rise and fervently hopes they will not rise above their real level on the eve of the stabilization programme. No additional freeing of resources is therefore to be expected from a further cutback in private consumption.

Then there is public civilian consumption. The Treasury has borne down as hard as it could, but total civilian public consumption - public administration, transfer payments and all (some of which are in the nature of investments, such as in education) - amounts to 28.3 per cent of the 1986 budget, compared with 29.6 per cent in the 1985 budget. Anyone recalling the furious

battles that accompanied the cuts in these expenditures must realize that not much is to be had in future from releasing additional resources from civilian public consumption.

The third major use of resources is domestic defence spending, supposedly now cut "to the bone." The data on defence spending are not only shrouded in a fog of secrecy, but are also hidden in a labyrinth of diverse definitions. The latest published estimates of the Central Bureau of Statistics indicate that domestic defence spending has indeed shrunk by 7.1 per cent in 1985. In reality, it may eventually turn out to have increased. Total defence spending, which declined in 1982 and 1983, has gone up again as a result of bigger defence imports. This increase presages a subsequent rise in domestic defence spending: the imported military hardware will have to be integrated into the order of battle.

While present defence and foreign policy stands, there is no chance of releasing any resources from defence spending to increase growth that is not defence-related. Indeed, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his generals have been reported in the press as saying that the present cut in defence spending is only temporary.

There is, in sum, no hope that after fiscal 1986 the allocation of domestic resources will leave more for investment and growth. And since the National Budget predicts a GNP growth of no more than 2.4 per cent (a substantial part of which may be the self-generated growth of defence spending) and the expected rise in real wages, not much is to be had for investment from the increment of the national product.

THREE main external factors have helped the success of the stabilization programme: additional U.S. aid; a fall in commodity prices, particularly the price of oil; and the appreciation of the European cur-

rencies against the dollar, which has increased the profitability of exports. None of these three factors can be relied upon to persist: U.S. budget cuts under the Gramm-Rudman bill may even require Israel to pay back some \$20-75 million of aid money already received.

Commodity prices have declined and the price of oil, in particular, may fall still further. The dollar has fallen against the European currencies, and that trend may also last a while, but it may also reverse itself.

The upshot is that if economic policy has not so far released enough resources for the renewal of growth in 1986, it is unlikely to do so during 1986 or later. If there have been resources for growth up to now, where are they to come from in 1987, or 1988? Is growth to fall by manna from heaven? Time is working against us. This should have led policy-makers to the conclusion of following up immediately on the success of the stabilization policy by allocating to growth as much as possible of the resources freed or provided by additional American aid.

Instead the budget plans tread water and accomplish nothing except building up foreign reserves to nearly the entire amount of the American emergency aid and collecting interest. Financial prudence may dictate going some way in this direction, but that does not mean that a renitent philosophy must dictate the limits of prudence.

As it stands, the 1986 budget is design for sterile stagnation - defensive, timid, and headed into a dead end alley. It contains no sign of the revival of growth that is the only hope for the structural change we need for lasting economic viability, and which alone can mitigate the inequalities in sharing the burden we shall have to go on bearing for a long time to come.

The writer is the economic editor of The Jerusalem Post.

## READERS' LETTERS

### SUEZ SOLDIERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I read with great interest Dr. Shimon Redlich's article of December 13, "Sheptytsky and the Jews."

In the autumn of 1942, as a boy of 10, I accompanied my late father, Rabbi Kalman Chameides, the former rabbi of Katowice, to a meeting with the Metropolitan Kyr Andrei Sheptytsky. After speaking with me briefly and extending me his blessing, the Metropolitan asked my father about the current state of the Lvov Jewish community and listened gravely to my father's summary of the tragic situation within the ghetto and the nearby Janowski camp. At one point, when my father was overcome by his grief, the Metropolitan tried very gently to console him.

Eventually my father returned me (and later also my younger brother) to the Metropolitan's residence and entrusted us to his care. For the next two years, we remained under the Metropolitan's protection in the care of his brother, Father Ihumen Klementy. Father Marko, a number of priests, Studite monks and trusted lay persons.

It is difficult in 1986 to imagine the ferocity of the persecution and the danger to persons harbouring a Jewish child in German-occupied Galicia of 1942. Suffice it to say that, during the first year, I had to be urgently moved from orphanages, monasteries, safe houses and farms more than a dozen times. Since the very presence of a Jewish child ex-

posed its protectors to the death penalty, bringing one into a monastery or institution presented a cruel moral dilemma.

It is just as difficult to appreciate now the courage required in 1942 to issue a pastoral letter starting with the words "Thou shalt not kill." I understand that this letter could not be printed in the Metropolitan's printery and had to be copied and distributed by hand. The avoidance of explicit mention of Jews was a sensible precaution - in any case, even a child would have understood what the Archbishop meant.

In 1944, after our liberation, the Metropolitan returned the Jewish children to the remnants of the Jewish community in Lvov as soon as foster families for them could be found. Each child was fitted out with a tailor-made suit of new clothes, for the Sheptytsky brothers did not lack style.

Dr. Redlich points to a lack of evidence of action by the Metropolitan between July 1941 and the beginning of 1942. In view of the loss of almost all the documentation of the Metropolitan's office from this period, care must be taken not to draw any unwarranted conclusions. I am confident that if and when further ex documentation surfaces, it too will confirm the noble and selfless actions of the Sheptytsky brothers and all those who assisted them.

ZVI BARNEA (formerly Chameides) South Caulfield, Australia.

### THE SHEPTYTSKY BROTHERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I am responding to the letter from Professors Berger and Saxe concerning the guidelines for the university affiliations programme of the United States Information Agency (January 8).

The affiliations programme is designed to help develop institutional relationships between U.S. and foreign universities in the areas of humanities, social sciences, education and communications. All grants are centrally funded by the USIA in Washington which, in the Federal Register of October 4, 1985, invited applications for grants from U.S. institutions of higher education. All applications must be submitted by U.S. institutions.

In the 1986 fiscal year, approximately 25 grants will be available world-wide through the regular competition. In the North African, Near Eastern and South Asian area mentioned in the letter, U.S. institutions may propose affiliation projects through the regular competition with universities in Algeria, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Nepal, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia, the West Bank and the Yemen Arab Republic.

In deciding which areas to emphasize, the USIA took into consideration the number and strength of existing university affiliation programmes, both private and government-sponsored. Since one of the goals of the USIA-sponsored

affiliation programme is to help start programmes where none currently exists, universities in those areas where there are already a large number of strong, bilateral programmes were not considered in this year's competition.

We take great satisfaction from the fact that there are many government-sponsored and private bilateral programmes involving Israeli and U.S. universities, many of which are supported by the USIA. Indeed, an affiliation grant with an Israeli university was awarded in 1984; and the million dollar plus Fulbright programme in Israel, which is supported by funds from USIA, is involved in many outstanding bilateral academic exchange projects here.

In fact, the Fulbright programme in Israel is the only one in the North African, Near Eastern and South Asian area that has received an endowment, freeing it from dependence on annual government appropriations.

The West Bank is not described as a "country" in the published announcements about the university affiliation programme. As explained above, the West Bank is on the list because the USIA supports efforts to start and develop affiliations between universities there and U.S. institutions.

ROBERT B. PETERSEN, Cultural Attache, U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv.

### TRAVEL TAX

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Minister of Tourism Avraham Shurin seems to have no concept of reciprocity.

Tourists should come to Israel and spend their money freely while Israel restricts its own citizens from returning the compliment by taxing both the fares and the limited spending-money. Travel agents should respond to the minister's invitation to hold their all-important annual conference here, but he need not be on hand to receive them. New immigrants are penalized along with all Israeli residents and made to pay a tax when joining in family events overseas but yordim are to be encouraged to come here for a visit without having to fork out the iniquitous tax when they take their leave (according to Shurin's proposal of January 12).

This means that former residents are to have the advantage over those who stay put, even though the latter's income is in all likelihood commensurate more with local salaries than with the higher earnings offered abroad. Businessmen and government officials are also to continue enjoying an advantage over the hard-pressed citizen who merely seeks to broaden his mind.

The travel tax is unfair, counterproductive and should be repealed. Currency restrictions, on the other hand, should remain in force for the time being.

JUDY COOPER-WEILL Jerusalem.

### JEWS AND MORMONS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I cannot, in good conscience, allow the controversy over the Brigham Young University Study Center to continue without a word in support of what may well be the staunchest group of friends we Jews have in the Christian world.

In 1916, the citizens of Utah, when Mormons comprised 60 per cent of the state's population, elected Simon Bamberger as their governor. He was the first Jew ever to attain such office in the United States. In 1931, when the Mormon population was nearly 50 per cent of the city's total and Jews but a scant handful, Louis Marcus was elected mayor of Salt Lake City. These are historical facts to which no motive can be attached other than the predisposi-

tion of the Mormons to accept Jews as equal and respected citizens.

Utah's Jewish population will testify that, once having identified its religious affiliation, it is, with the rare exception of an occasional zealot, free from further proselytizing efforts. To those who are genuinely concerned that the Mormons may try to convert Jews, may I say that, having made a commitment before the eyes of the world, the Mormon Church may be relied upon to honour its word. I would ask that those who so violently oppose a Mormon presence, give Mormons the same consideration and a chance to be judged by their actions that Jews have asked of a hostile world for centuries.

JACK SHAPIRO, Salt Lake City.

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